

THE TIMES Tomorrow
Up, up and away
In Part 2 of Saturday's Great British Summer Series, Ronald Faux discovers the delights of ballooning.
Key to Keynes
Robert Skidelsky considers the economic theories of John Maynard Keynes on the centenary of his birth.

US tests on cruise suspended

The US has temporarily suspended tests on its air-launched cruise missile to examine problems which developed during two recent launches. The Pentagon said deployment policy would not be affected.

Meanwhile Nato defence ministers meeting in Brussels reaffirmed their "twin-track" decision to deploy American nuclear weapons and simultaneously negotiate arms control with the Soviet Union.

Big North Sea investment

A consortium led by Marathon Oil has committed itself to spending up to £1,700m on opening up its second North Sea field. The project will secure 5,000 jobs in the oil industry.



Piggott's double

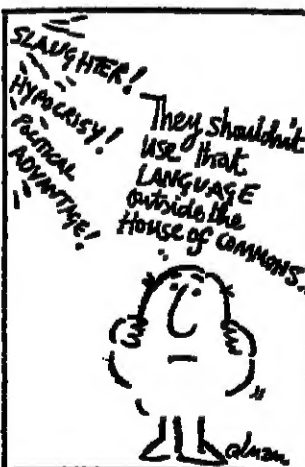
Lester Piggott back in the winner's enclosure on Be My Native in yesterday's Coronation Cup at Epsom, following his resounding Derby victory on Teosmo. Michael Seely's tribute.

Mikardo arrest

Mr Ian Mikardo, Labour candidate for Bow and Poplar, has been charged with obstructing the highway outside Bow Road Underground station, where he was canvassing yesterday in a Mini car.

200 arrested

A further 200 people were arrested on the third day of the blockade of the US Air Force base at Upper Heyford, Oxfordshire, bringing the total of arrests to 500.



The Times

We regret that, because of production difficulties, some editions of The Times today have appeared with a curtailed service of news.

Leader, page 15
Letters: On nuclear war, from Professor J. H. Humphrey and others; election issues, from Mr G. Watson, and others; betting shops, from Miss L. Clayton
Leading articles: Falklands in the election; The Women's Institute
Features, pages 12-14
How will the Pope change Poland this time? John Pardo's election column. Spectrum: A chop off the old block. Friday Page: Divorce, remarriage and the church: What MPs think of women; Medical Briefing
Obituary, page 16
Prince Charles of Belgium, Anna Seghers

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Steel jubilant at six-point gain for SDP-Liberals

● Conservative and Labour anxiety deepened as latest opinion polls showed increased support for the SDP-Liberal Alliance
● Mr Foot and Mr Benn joined forces to attack the opinion polls, the press and the Alliance

● Labour campaign managers were alarmed, at Mr Healey's accusation over the Falklands that Mrs Thatcher "glories in slaughter"
● Mrs Sara Jones, the widow of Col H Jones, VC, said Mr Healey's conduct was "despicable and cheap"

Tory and Labour worry deepens as Alliance gains

By Anthony Bevins and George Clark

Senior Conservative and Labour sources are concerned that the opinion polls will be showing a tie between Labour and the Social Democratic Party-Liberal Alliance before polling takes place next Thursday.

The latest opinion polls are showing a clear pattern in favour of the Alliance. The Harris poll, issued last night, showed the Conservatives on 46 per cent, Labour at 28 per cent and the Alliance on 24 per cent. Other polls, by Gallup for The Daily Telegraph and Marplan for The Guardian, also show an increase in Alliance support.

Those results, with fieldwork carried out last Tuesday and Wednesday, gave the Alliance a six-point advance, compared with a 2 per cent fall for the Conservatives, and a 5 per cent fall for Labour, compared with last week's poll for Thames Television.

If that trend continued, and all polls published in the last week show a steady swing towards the Alliance, with a greater proportion of votes moving from Labour than from the Conservatives then it is

entirely possible that the Alliance could have overtaken Labour by polling day.

Labour leaders are worried that if that position was reached, then the party's fragile credibility could collapse completely.

Certainly the Alliance has proved that it is capable of mustering popular support in the 30 per cent region. On present form, they would move

LATEST OPINION POLLS

Sample taken on May 25-30 by Gallup for The Daily Telegraph

Conservatives	47.5%
Labour	28%
Alliance	23%
Others	1.5%

Sample taken by Marplan for the Guardian

Conservatives	67%
Labour	30%
Alliance	22%
Others	1%

Sample taken May 11/12 by Harris for TV Eye

Conservatives	48%
Labour	28%
Alliance	24%
Others	2%

to that point at Labour's expense.

But there is equally strong anxiety among Conservative Party managers. They fear that if the Alliance does run second in last-minute eve-of-poll polls, while the Conservatives maintain a lead of more than 15 per cent, then marginal Conservatives and the floating voters might be tempted to damp down a landslide Conservative victory by plumping for the Alliance alternative.

Those fears were last night reflected by Sir Keith Joseph, the Secretary of State for Education and Science, who said in Luxembourg: "These last days are very nerve-racking. It still could crumble. Anything could happen - and probably will."

At their morning press conference yesterday, Labour leaders had tried to dismiss the Alliance's prospects.

Claims made by the Alliance that they were overhauling Labour in terms of electoral popularity were based on polls that lacked integrity, Mr Roy Hattersley, the Shadow Home Secretary, said.

Continued on back page, col 7

Healey regrets his 'slaughter' attack

By Arthur Ozman

Mr Denis Healey withdrew the accusation that Mrs Margaret Thatcher had "gloried in slaughter" when he appeared on BBC television's Question Time in Birmingham last night.

He was asked by Sir Robin Day if he regretted using the phrase or wished to withdraw it, and he said: "I do regret using the word 'slaughter'. I think I should have said the word 'conflict'. When I used the word 'slaughter', it was not a prepared remark. I was thinking of the rather surprising remarks in front of the television cameras outside 10 Downing Street, and the shout of 'rejoice, rejoice'."

"What I really meant was her appetite for conflict, which in some ways is an admirable thing in domestic politics, but a very, very dangerous thing in international affairs."

Mr Cecil Parkinson, chairman of the Conservative Party, said to the television audience: "Of course, I welcome it so far as it goes; but I must say he has been lauding his remarks extremely carefully over the last 24 hours, and nobody reading what he said last night would have drawn the conclusion that he is trying to point to today."

Mr Parkinson said that Mr Healey had accused the Conservative Party of electioneering on the Falklands conflict; we did not bring it into the election - he did and brought it in in contemptible fashion."

Mr Healey said in a late-night speech in Birmingham on Wednesday that the Prime Minister "glories in slaughter". She wrapped herself in the Union Jack and exploited the sacrifices of servicemen during the Falklands conflict for party advantage, while leading money to Buenos Aires so that the Argentines could buy more weapons to kill more British servicemen. "That is stupefying hypocrisy," he said.

The reaction was angry and graphic from Labour's Conservative and Alliance opponents.

The Prime Minister said: "I think it has gone beyond all bounds of public or political decency, and I think it has given

Foot and Benn counterblast

From David Felton, Bristol

Mr Michael Foot yesterday joined forces with Mr Wedgwood Benn to launch a full-on attack against the opinion polls, the press and the Alliance as a counter to the argument that Labour's campaign had run out of steam.

Both maintained that the polls were painting a false picture of Labour support and Mr Foot referred to "cooked" polls which made "absolutely ridiculous" predictions that the Alliance could overtake Labour.

Mr Foot believed the Alliance was a threat to Labour, "although they like to pretend they are. The evidence as I tour north, south, east and west is that many more people are backing our campaign than in many elections."

The Labour leader was paying a whistle-stop visit to Bristol in support of party candidates in the city, including Mr Benn, who is contesting the marginal Bristol East constituency.

Mr Foot went on to his home town of Plymouth, where he made a strong attack on Dr David Owen, the Social Democratic Party's foreign affairs spokesman, who is defending the Devonport constituency. That followed a prediction by Mr Benn that Dr Owen would lose and switch to the Conservatives.

Mr Benn, whose clashes in the past with Mr Foot appeared to have been forgotten yesterday, also said: "Nobody trusts forecasts and Mr Jenkins is a turncoat."

He attacked newspapers for asking questions which had no relevance.

He accused The Times of trying to "raise a scare" about pension funds being at risk if Labour won power.

Mr Foot's attack was likewise reserved for the polls and the newspapers. The suggestion that the Alliance was catching Labour was "nonsense. It is not even proved by their own cooked polls."

Sheffield was lost in the Falklands attack Mr Healey for being "absolutely wrong", in criticizing Mrs Thatcher.

She said: "I was annoyed by his outburst because Mrs Thatcher was right in the action she took and I agreed with her."

Professor Hugh Tinker, the father of David Tinker, who was killed in the Falklands, said he was "amazed" that Mr Healey had introduced the issue at this stage of the election the Press Association reports.

Professor Tinker, whose son's letters home have been published, said: "To just throw it in and make it a personal issue of Mrs Thatcher's own attitude does not seem to me to be a worthy way of introducing the subject into the election."

● Mrs Jill Swallow, whose son Andrew died when HMS



Music to his ears: Mr Steel discussing opinion polls in London yesterday.

Revolt against Arafat grows

From Robert Fisk, Beirut

Mr Yasser Arafat's empire within the Palestine Liberation Organization moved further towards disintegration yesterday when two of the main guerrilla groups based in Damascus implicitly condemned his rule.

The move came less than 24 hours after his senior military commander, in the Lebanese Bekaa Valley defected to the side of the Palestinian mutineers.

As Colonel Gaddafi of Libya offered to train and finance "volunteers" to fight the Israelis in Lebanon - men who would presumably be led by Mr Arafat's detractors in the Fatah guerrilla movement - Mr Arafat held an emergency meeting of his Fatah central committee yesterday in a desperate attempt to prevent the mutiny infecting further guerrilla units.

In a joint statement issued in Damascus last night, the pro-Moscow Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine and the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine of Dr Georgei Habbash, supported demands by the mutineers for "democratic reform" within the PLO.

In an obvious criticism of Mr Arafat, the two groups demanded an end to the "bureaucratic, bourgeois role" of the PLO leadership.

On Wednesday night, Mr Moussa Awad, the Fatah commander in the Bekaa Valley, said that he had joined the mutiny against Mr Arafat, taking 10,000 guerrillas with him. The figure was an exaggeration but the dissenters can be numbered in their hundreds.

Journalists taken to meet Mr Awad near the city of Baalbek found his guerrillas guarding the mountain road into the Bekaa from Syria with anti-aircraft positions and machine-guns. Mr Awad called for increased cooperation with Syria and the Soviet Union, an ominous suggestion now that Moscow is supporting Syria's refusal to leave Lebanon.

Mr Arafat's won officials have been trying to rent office space in the port area of the northern Lebanese city of Tripoli. That had naturally raised suspicions that PLO officers loyal to Mr Arafat intend to turn the city, which contains 70,000 Palestinian civilians and guerrillas, into a new headquarters.

Reports from Damascus yesterday suggested that the PLO chairman had applied to transfer funds from Syrian to Tripoli banks in preparation for such a move.

The Syrians, whom Mr Arafat and his closest colleagues blame for the mutiny, do not control the centre of Tripoli, where local Sunni Muslim nationalists have been engaged in sporadic battles against Syrian troops with the PLO's tacit support.

Mr Younger stressed yesterday that no firm plans had been put before ministers. He said: "The uncertainty seems to me to be related to the fact that the British Government is going to have to put money into a plant concerned with the US Steel Corporation."

There are difficult problems with tariffs. The US has a record of introducing tariffs against things they do not like coming into America. It seems to me fairly unlikely it will ever be possible to put together such a deal."

NEW YORK: Mr Younger's comments surprised congressional and industry officials who noted that only last week Mr David Rockefeller, the chairman of US Steel, indicated that talks between the two companies were going well.

Pay talks reach deadlock

The dispute at the Financial Times stopped its publication for the third day in succession yesterday after print workers refused the management's condition of an immediate return to work before pay talks would be resumed.

A stoppage by about 100 composing staff, members of the National Graphical Association, yesterday caused the loss of the 50,000 copies of the European edition, as well as the 200,000 British print run. Both the TUC and ACAS, the arbitration and conciliation service, have been notified but no new peace moves have come from either side.

Mr Alan Hare, chairman of the newspaper, declined to comment on a suggestion that protective notices might soon be issued to staff. "We see no point in resuming direct negotiations until such time as we have a restoration of normal working," he said. Mr Bryn Griffiths, general president of the NGA, said: "The next move must come from management."

The dispute is over a new NGA claim for a pay rise from £304 to £330 a week.

Ravenscraig jobs fears revived

By Rupert Morris

Fears for 4,000 jobs at British Steel's ironmaking plant at Ravenscraig in Scotland were revived yesterday in the light of some equivocal remarks by Mr George Younger, Secretary of State for Scotland.

Mr Younger, who had previously declined to comment on a plan devised by Mr Ian MacGregor, BSC chairman, to link Ravenscraig with a steel-works in the US, said yesterday it was unlikely to go ahead.

The plan, which would involve between 1,200 and 2,500 job losses at Ravenscraig, is regarded by Mr MacGregor as essential to preserve the plant's long term future. It would also involve up to 3,000 job losses in the US, and is strongly opposed by unions in both countries.

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P&O rejects bid by Trafalgar

By Jonathan Clare

The £300m battle for control of P & O, Britain's largest shipping company, began in earnest last night.

Trafalgar House, which owns the QE2 and the Ritz Hotel, wants to add P & O's construction business and 74-ship fleet to its own 22 ships, construction and property empire.

Mr Nigel Brookes, the Trafalgar chairman, who started as a property developer more than 20 years ago, said: "It would fit like a glove."

P & O has been going through rough seas recently with profits last year down 18 per cent and difficult trading forecast this year. But the group has rejected Trafalgar's bid as "desirous".

Mr Oliver Brooks, P & O's managing director said: "We now have confirmation that Trafalgar's bid terms are way below what we are worth."

Trafalgar says it believes P & O's problems are largely attributable to poor management and ill-timed strategic decisions.

Mr Brookes said Trafalgar would get better profits out of P & O with a mixture of economies of scale on overheads and advertising and management skills.

The Office of Fair Trading is considering whether the bid should be recommended for reference to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission. A decision should be made within three weeks.

Mr Brookes said that if the bid was referred he would be inclined to cooperate with what is likely to be a six-month inquiry.



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Synod to look at church remarriage for divorcees

By Robert Nowell

A procedure that would allow the marriage in church of divorced persons, hitherto officially forbidden in the Church of England, is to be brought before the General Synod when it meets in York next month.

It results from a resolution passed by the synod the last time it met in York. In July, 1981, it agreed that there were circumstances in which a divorced person might be married in church during the lifetime of a former partner, and asked the standing committee to provide it with a range of procedures for such cases.

In its report, published today, the standing committee considered seven procedures, ranging from a nullity procedure on the lines of Roman Catholic canon law to leaving matters to the discretion of the parish priest.

Its preferred procedure among the seven would involve the granting of a dispensation by a bishop from "the strict rules which normally attend marriage in church".

A couple would first approach their parish priest. He would complete an application form for submission to the bishop on their behalf, which would include his assessment of the situation and also a declaration signed by the couple stating their understanding and acceptance of marriage as affirmed by the church.

The bishop would refer each case to an interdiocesan panel of advisers, and on the basis of

their advice and the data on the application form would then decide whether to grant the dispensation. There would be no appeal against his decision.

The standing committee would envisage only seven or eight panels to cover the Church of England's 44 dioceses.

That scheme represents a compromise which it is hoped will unite the divergent groups within the Church of England, whose disagreement has so far prevented any solution to the growing problem of divorced Anglicans entering a second marriage.

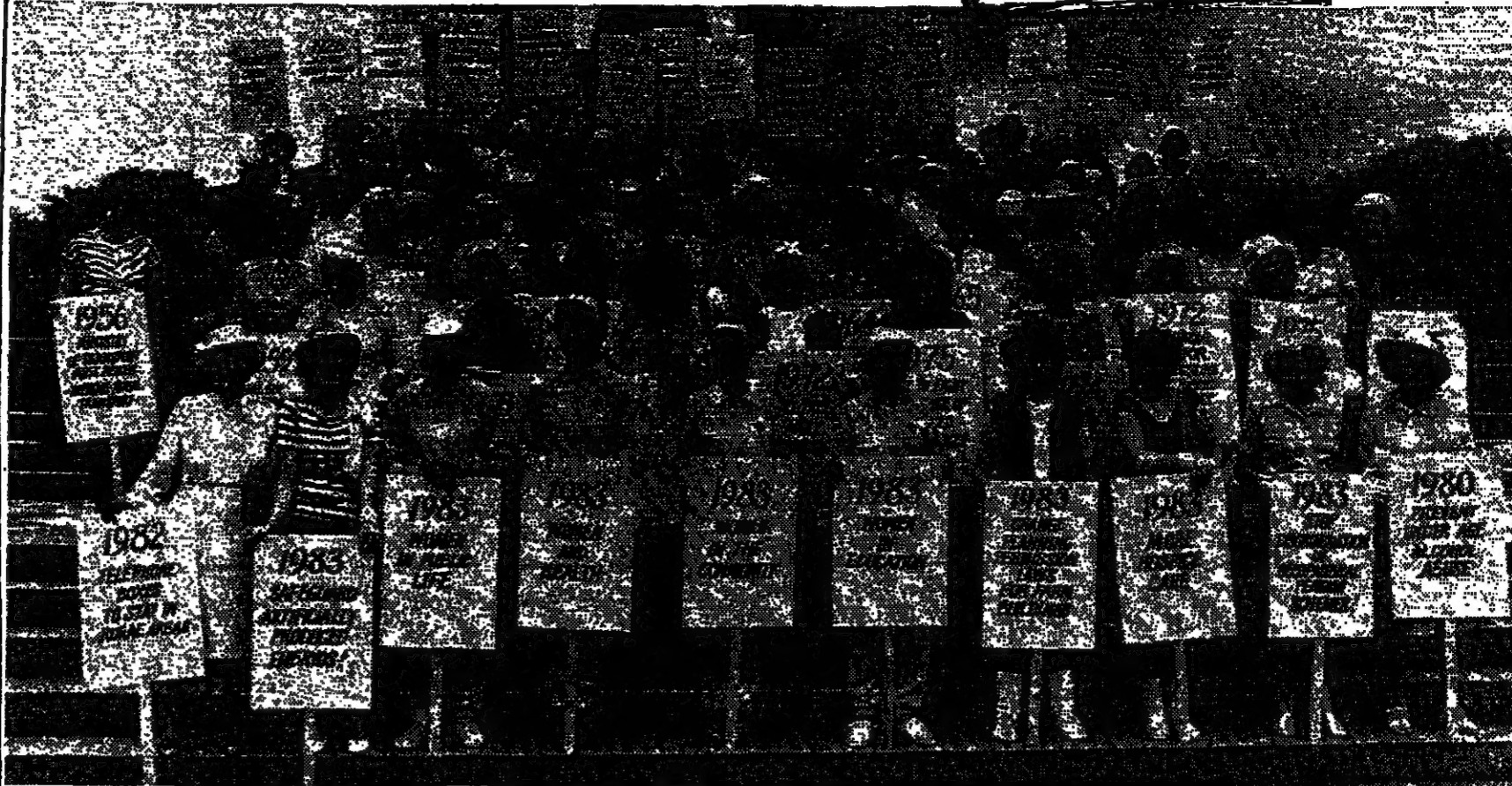
It could be used to operate something like a nullity procedure. The dispensation would be granted only if the church authorities felt that the first marriage could be regarded as null, at least on a liberal interpretation of the kind of criteria applied in the Roman Catholic Church's marriage tribunal.

Alternatively, it could be used for the kind of remarriage inquiry used by the Methodist and United Reformed churches before an agreement is made to the marriage of divorced people, of whom many are Anglicans.

Under the Church of England's present discipline, while a divorced person cannot be married in church, he or she can be readmitted to Communion.

Marriage and the Standing Committee's Task (CIC, publishing, £1.25).

Penny Perriek, page 13



A pageant of WI members displays almost 70 years of campaigning. (Photograph: John Voos).

Action call on school intruders

From Richard Garner of The Times Educational Supplement, Harrogate.

Schools in inner-city areas will have to have regular security patrols within five years if action is not taken against intruders, it was claimed at the annual conference of the National Association of Head Teachers in Harrogate yesterday.

Mr Frank Thorn, national council member of Inner London and headmaster of Hydebern School, Balham, said: "I don't want to see it and I am sure none of you want it but I can see it happening nevertheless." He said it was no accident that the two speakers on the subject of intruders both came from deprived inner-city areas.

Mr Peter Parry, headmaster of Ranworth Square School, Liverpool, said there were many horrific stories of intruders "bent on violence coming into school to cause physical harm to the head or teachers".

The conference decided to press local education authorities to use new powers under the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1982, to take court action.

The Bishop of Liverpool, the Right Rev David Sheppard, told the association's annual dinner last night that young people were regarding the general election debate about unemployment as "cynicism of a distinctly high order".

He said reducing unemployment by a million would be "little or nothing for an area like Merseyside" because most of the jobs would appear in more affluent areas. Youth unemployment in Croydon was 95 per cent now, he said.

The head teacher whose school was the subject of a BBC television documentary series about comprehensive education was condemned yesterday for calling independent school teachers "educational prostitutes".

Mr David Hart, general secretary of the association, which has 22,500 members, told the conference that the series about Kingswood School in Corby, Northamptonshire, had "significantly damaged the cause of comprehensive education".

He added of the remarks made by Mr Brian Tyler, the school's headmaster: "The extreme and intemperate language he used about our colleagues in the independent sector will serve only to antagonize yet more of the uncommitted parents and others who genuinely wish to see the maintained sector thrive."

Mr Tyler, who is a member of the rival Secondary Heads Association, with which the National Association of Head Teachers is hoping to merge, said: "I am not in the extreme fringe and I am not in favour of abolishing public schools. I cannot understand why David Hart is doing this."

Mix-up confirmed after records check

Mothers raised wrong babies

By Ronald Faux

A couple celebrate their golden wedding anniversary today, 47 years after a nursing home mix-up resulted in them taking home the wrong baby.

Mrs Margaret Wheeler and her husband, Charles, brought up the child as their own despite discovering the mistake.

Among those at the celebrations will be their real daughter, and Mrs Blanche Rylatt, the mother who took home their baby and brought her up.

The family tangle began in a Nottingham nursing home in 1936 when Mrs Wheeler and Mrs Rylatt shared the same ward. Both gave birth to daughters. Mrs Wheeler to a full-term healthy baby and Mrs Rylatt to a child who was six months premature.

Both suspected something was wrong, particularly Mrs Wheeler, when she was presented with a baby covered in body down, a symptom of premature birth.

"I remember pointing it out to nursing staff, but they pooched the idea that the babies

had been 'mixed up'. Mrs Margaret Wheeler, now aged 75, said yesterday at her home near Cockermouth, Cumbria.

Mrs Blanche Rylatt, now aged 75 and living in Nottingham, also could not believe, at the time, that such a mix-up was possible, but both mothers agreed before leaving the nursing home to keep in touch.

As the girls grew up, Peggy Rylatt's dark eyes and hair were quite at odds with the complexion of the rest of her family.

It was when the girls were aged seven that the two mothers finally had access to the nursing home records and had absolute proof of the administrative slip-up.

Their respective forms had been signed by the wrong doctor. Both decided that setting the tangle to rights would be too traumatic for the girls. Instead they agreed to keep in close touch so they could see their true daughters grow up.

Initial distress soon gave way to a sense that both families had gained. Mrs Wheeler said: "I was distressed at first but now I feel as though I had won

another daughter rather than lost."

Peggy Rylatt was 18 and on the eve of her engagement when "Aunt Margaret" admitted that she was in fact her mother. She produced a photograph of another of her daughters and it was like seeing a photograph of herself two years younger.

Peggy Rylatt, now Mrs Clark, lives in Nottingham and has two children of her own. Her son Simon, aged 18, said yesterday: "It was a gradual realization, part of family lore that we all came to accept after my mother passed it on to my sister and myself."

When the two girls learnt about the mix-up, both decided to stay with the families that had unwittingly adopted them. They both add gently to the confusion by regarding one another as sisters and Mrs Clark calls both mothers "mum".

Her "sister" Valerie is now married with two children and lives in Andorra. She and more than forty friends and relatives, will be united today to celebrate Mr and Mrs Wheeler's golden wedding and a happy outcome to the administrative mix-up.

WI dances in aisles at Albert Hall

By A Correspondent

Five thousand members of the National Federation of Women's Institutes gathered in the Albert Hall, London, yesterday to launch a new image and many delegates danced in the aisles to the strains of a pop theme song. "Prospects are Sky High at the WI".

The annual meeting began in the usual way, however, with all the women singing "Jerusalem".

A move to enforce planning permission for agricultural buildings, which had been seen as a change in direction from the WI's close connections with the farming community, was rejected by the conference.

Mrs Barbara Wright, an Oxford delegate, said: "The modern British home is no longer a thing of beauty or rustic charm. In the interests of economy they are now often constructed of concrete and corrugated asbestos and are frequently of enormous proportions."

Others argued that further controls would increase bureaucracy. "Any building which causes a nuisance or is a health hazard is already subject to the control of the local authority or of the private individual using common law", Mrs Maureen Mason, a delegate from Copley, Durham, said.

Other motions on the status of test-tube babies, improved hospice care and a man's right to the contributory pension of his dead wife were passed almost unanimously.

The conference also saw the launching of the WI's promotion, Women in the Community, which it hopes will bring more members and more publicity in the next two years.

The aim of the conference is to show off the WI's achievements. "Other groups have been shouting for a long time. Now we are going to start shouting because we have achieved as much as them and more", one WI stalwart told The Times.

Leading article, page 15

Donor heart flown from Vienna

Mr Magdi Yacoub, the heart surgeon at Harefield Hospital, Middlesex, flew to Vienna to collect a new heart for an electrician aged 52.

The patient, Mr Roy Price, of Mansfield Woodhouse, Nottinghamshire, is now recovering after the hospital's 58th heart transplant operation.

Mr Price, who has had three heart attacks, was admitted to the hospital last week for tests. Then a suitable donor was unexpectedly found in Vienna and the seven-hour operation took place on Sunday.

His wife, Mrs Jean Price, said: "It has all happened so quickly. A few weeks ago we had never even thought of a transplant. The operation has been a success."

£2m natural hot water project

A £2m scheme by the Department of Energy to provide hot water for thousands of homes by drilling 5,000 boreholes in the Grimsby and Cleethorpes area of Humberside was announced yesterday.

The natural hot water which the department thinks abundant in the area could be available for use in less than two years. Geophysicists will drill five boreholes to determine the most prolific area of natural hot water.

Cancer check to be made

A medical study is to be made in south and west Cumbria to try to determine if there is any link between certain forms of cancer and radioactive discharges from the Sellafield nuclear reprocessing plant.

Dr John Terrell, medical officer for West Cumbria, said it may never be possible to establish a link conclusively but he thought a detailed study would be worthwhile especially in view of recent claims about the effect of a fire at the plant in 1957.

Stray horses to be rounded up

A former miner who looked after pit ponies has been chosen by Wansbeck Council in Northumberland as a full-time horse warden. It is believed to be the first such appointment by a local authority.

Mr George Dickson, aged 56, of Stakeford, near Ashington, will be equipped with a rope lasso and a horse box to round up stray horses.

Beatles work on display

An exhibition containing Beatles film and music never before seen of heard in public is expected to draw thousands of fans next month at the group's old headquarters, the former Apple Studios, in St John's Wood, north west London.

Five remanded on drug charges

Five men charged after the seizure of two kilos of cocaine, with an estimated street value of £800,000, at the Cumberland Hotel in Marble Arch, London, were remanded in custody until June 9 at Horseferry Road court yesterday.

Council reconsiders blacks-only loans

From Arthur Osman, Birmingham

West Midlands County Council is rethinking its proposed £200,000 scheme to give loans to coloured businessmen only.

Mr Francis Ddeusch, senior legal adviser to the Commission for Racial Equality, said in London yesterday: "There are ways in which the scheme can be freed of any ground of complaint. This would involve taking out the specification for blacks only."

He said a possible solution was that it should operate in areas of high unemployment. It could also have personal or environmental criteria "which can encompass whites but still meet the exceptional hardship of the black community".

The council's proposal last month that only coloured businessmen would qualify for loans of up to £10,000 was attacked as discriminatory. So far up to a hundred applications have been received.

Mr Geoffrey Edge, chairman of the county's economic development committee, said:

"We believe in positive discrimination because black people are disadvantaged." Yesterday an official said the scheme was in limbo while legal questions were resolved. No sifting work had been done. He added: "The politics of the thing had meant it is better if the scheme does not gain any more publicity until after the election. We are keeping a low profile because the problem is that anything we do on this front at the moment gets high media coverage. We prefer to work quietly behind the scenes, get it organized and the legalities sorted out."

He said there were big policy implications on how it should proceed. The commission has said it was not possible under the Race Relations Act to implement a policy aimed at one particular group. There were, however, differing legal opinions. Two main questions faced the council: What was the legal advice on existing legislation and was that legislation designed at the time

to take court action? The Bishop of Liverpool, the Right Rev David Sheppard, told the association's annual dinner last night that young people were regarding the general election debate about unemployment as "cynicism of a distinctly high order".

He said reducing unemployment by a million would be "little or nothing for an area like Merseyside" because most of the jobs would appear in more affluent areas. Youth unemployment in Croydon was 95 per cent now, he said.

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Mr David Hart, general secretary of the association, which has 22,500 members, told the conference that the series about Kingswood School in Corby, Northamptonshire, had "significantly damaged the cause of comprehensive education".

He added of the remarks made by Mr Brian Tyler, the school's headmaster: "The extreme and intemperate language he used about our colleagues in the independent sector will serve only to antagonize yet more of the uncommitted parents and others who genuinely wish to see the maintained sector thrive."

Mr Tyler, who is a member of the rival Secondary Heads Association, with which the National Association of Head Teachers is hoping to merge, said: "I am not in the extreme fringe and I am not in favour of abolishing public schools. I cannot understand why David Hart is doing this."

He said there were big policy implications on how it should proceed. The commission has said it was not possible under the Race Relations Act to implement a policy aimed at one particular group. There were, however, differing legal opinions. Two main questions faced the council: What was the legal advice on existing legislation and was that legislation designed at the time

to take court action? The Bishop of Liverpool, the Right Rev David Sheppard, told the association's annual dinner last night that young people were regarding the general election debate about unemployment as "cynicism of a distinctly high order".

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Common land in dispute

By Hugh Clayton, Environment Correspondent

The rights of medieval cottagers to feed their pigs behind a dispute about where modern householders can have picnics and exercise their dogs. It centres on common land, which, in spite of its name, is often privately owned.

The Country Landowners' Association said yesterday that many farmers opposed unrestricted access to common land because it might interfere with grazing and shooting. The Ramblers' Association said that such access was long overdue.

Although some urban commons like Wimbledon Common in London have unrestricted access, most of more than a million acres of common land in Britain are restricted. The precise status of common land is still being officially unravelled after 25 years.

Many commons date from obscure medieval awards by lords of the manor of particular

rights to their tenants. They include rights of pasture, fishing, gathering of fuel, and turning out pigs to feed on acorns from the landlord's trees. Ramblers believe that such rights translated into modern terms mean access for recreation.

Miss Margaret Parrish, legal adviser to the Country Landowners' Association, said at a conference of the Open Spaces Society in London that many of its members were "emphatically against the universal right of public access to all common land." The association favoured local authority boards to fix restricted access for each piece of common land on its merits.

Mr Alan Mattingly, secretary of the Ramblers' Association, called for a law implementing a royal commission recommendation of 1958 that commons in England and Wales should be "open to the public as of right."

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Suicides in police care increase

By Peter Evans

The number of deaths in police custody in England and Wales from suicide, misadventure or accident almost doubled last year.

Those from misadventure or accident rose from 17 to 30, and suicides from four to eight out of a total last year of 55 deaths in police custody "or otherwise with the police".

Poisoning due to alcohol and drugs accounted for 10 cases of deaths from misadventure or accident and for two suicides.

Five of the deaths from misadventure or accident caused were by a fractured skull in four cases a combination with other causes was given - lung disease in three cases and brain haemorrhage in one.

Hanging accounted for six of the eight suicides.

The total of 55 deaths was very close to the figure for 1981, which was 49, a Home Office statistical bulletin says, "given that the figures for 1982 included three deaths which occurred in cases in which police has been substituting for the ambulance service during the National Health Service dispute".

The bulletin says there were 1.6 million arrests in England and Wales in 1982, and that the number of deaths was "very small" in comparison.

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Shirley Williams:
Gutsy fighter

The *Chariots of Fire* theme blaring from loudspeakers mounted above the hire van whisking her around Crosby sounds an eminently suitable battle cry for the athletic and seemingly inexhaustible Mrs Shirley Williams.

Were the results to be determined by effort alone she would certainly breast the election tape well ahead of the field. But it is swings not stamina that could decide Mrs Williams' parliamentary membership of the "Gang of Four".

In November, 1981, she scored an astonishing victory in the constituency, taking what many colleagues believed was an impossible gamble and then trouncing her Conservative rival from a traditional middle-class Conservative stronghold.

A 19,000 Conservative majority was turned into a 5,289 SDP lead by the largest movement of voters in the British Isles. But the ensuing 19 months have not been kind to Mrs Williams. Thatcherite policies which alienated Conservative supporters in the country's biggest mainland constituency during the by-election are winning back huge support.

Boundary changes have meant the loss of a chunk of Labour voters willing to turn SDP to keep the Conservatives out. Uncommitted supporters of the right are concerned at the Alliance's poor poll showings and reverting to their former Conservative allegiances to block Labour hopes of victory.

Crosby is Liverpool's stockbroker belt, less than 10 miles from the city centre but socially a million miles removed from *Boys of the Blackstuff* Scouse image. It is predominantly middle-class, has 81.5 per cent owner-occupancy and a generous selection of golf courses.

Mrs Williams, a gutsy political fighter, knows she has a Herculean task on her hands if she is to avoid a second successive general election defeat. "I make no bones about it, this will be a difficult constitu-

ency for me to win. Not so much because of the Tory following but because of boundary changes," she said. "It is tough seat."

Tough it may be but impossible it is not. Since the SDP president became their MP, Crosby residents have been impressed by the way Mrs Williams has thrown herself into constituency affairs, always willing, not only to listen to grievances, but to take action to put them right.

A recent example was when a parents' association petitioned her for school playing fields. Mrs Williams wrote to all 300 parents individually and then persuaded the local authority to provide the playing field.

Mr Malcolm Thornton, the Conservative candidate, a former Mersey river pilot has also been busy in the hustings. He dismisses the SDP victory after 36 years of Conservative rule, as nothing more than a temporary hiccup.

Like Mrs Williams, her main rival is a seasoned campaigner. His strength lies in the fact that, not only is he home-grown, a Merseyside and former local politician as leader of Wirral council, but he has already proved his parliamentary ability as Private Secretary to Mr Patrick Jenkin, Secretary of State for Industry.

Mr Thornton cynically suggests to voters that his opponents are both socialist candidates, one from the hard left and the other, Mrs Williams, "of the soft left".

In an area that shuddered under the vibrations of the terrifying Toxteth riots of July, 1981, he stands on an uncompromising law and order platform.

Labour outsider Robert Waring, a psychiatric social worker aged 32, and Merseyside County councillor is relying on the spreading Liverpool disease of unemployment for the bulk of his vote. "From the outside Crosby looks like leafy suburbia but almost one in five are out of work," he says.

Labour lost its deposit in the by-election and whether along leafy lane or not, Mr Waring's journey towards victory is uphill all the way.

Peter Hussey, the Ecology candidate figures largely in the outcome, not because he stands a chance of being elected, but because any switch of the 1,500 votes he polled in the 1979 election could decide the outcome in this knife-edged constituency.

Anxious SDP eyes throughout the country will be on Crosby when the polling booths close on June 9 to see if Mrs Williams' battler becomes her swan song.

Ian Smith

Alliance surge may be too late to save the Gang of Four

Although the latest opinion polls have revealed a dramatic upsurge of support for the Alliance, the "Gang of Four" who set up the SDP face a tough fight to be returned to Parliament (Richard Evans writes).

Mr Roy Jenkins, who is defending Glasgow, Hillhead, and more particularly Mrs Shirley Williams, fighting to hold Crosby, achieved by-election victories in 1981 at the height of the SDP's popularity. Since then, the party's opinion poll rating has slumped. Dr David Owen, MP for Plymouth, Devonport since 1974, has an uphill task in defending what has become a marginal seat in a Tory town. But the gang member with the toughest ordeal appears to

Mr Bill Rodgers, who had a massive majority while Labour MP for Stockton, North, but now has to persuade voters in prime Labour heartland to follow his example and switch allegiance to the SDP. Mr Ron Pollard, the political betting guru at Ladbrokes, yesterday offered a welter of odds which reflect the difficulties facing the gang. The chances of all four emerging victorious on June 9 are 14-1 against, while the odds against every member of the gang losing are 6-1.

More interesting, the odds on each member's individual chances of survival are much closer. Mr Jenkins and Dr Owen are both 5-4 on, while Mrs Williams and Mr Rodgers are 6-4 against.



Roy Jenkins:
Open contest

From outside Mr Roy Jenkins' campaign headquarters in Glasgow, Hillhead, 14 Labour posters are visible, six for the SDP/Liberal Alliance, one for the Scottish National Party, one for the SDP/Conservative, and none for the Conservatives. That may not be an accurate representation of the state of the parties but it shows Labour's determination to unseat its former deputy leader from the lead with the Conservative.

There is no doubt that if it were posters rather than votes that were being counted at Hillhead, Labour would easily win. The small red circles bearing the name of the candidate, Mr Neil Carmichael, easily outnumber the posters of all the other parties put together.

Labour also has by far the largest number of helpers on the ground. Mr Martin Hilland, the Labour agent, can count on up to 120 helpers each evening compared to the 50 or so who out each night for the Alliance and the Conservatives' small band of 15 to 20 regular helpers.

Early on in the campaign Mr Chris Ford, the SDP agent, was expressing open concern about the impact on the result of 17,000 or so new electors from Mr Neil Carmichael's old

Kelvin Grove seat, half of which has a noticeably more optimistic atmosphere in the SDP headquarters, with canvassers coming in hourly with reports of new converts.

What Mr Jenkins needs above all if he is to hold the seat he won in last year's by-elections is a collapse in the Conservative vote. There are some signs that this may be beginning to happen. A poll carried out last Sunday by Audience Selection for *The Sun* Newspaper indicated 34 per cent for the Alliance, 33 per cent for Labour and 29 per cent for the Conservatives with the SDP trailing behind with only 3 per cent.

Both Labour and the Conservatives deny that the Conservative vote is collapsing. The Conservative agent, Kirk Carter, says that his canvassing returns suggest that Labour is in the lead with the Conservative candidate, Mr Murray Tosh, a close second and the Alliance third.

The Labour canvassing returns confirm this trend. However, there is an undeniable lack-lustre feel about the Conservative campaign. Even their election leaflet was late in coming from the printers.

If, as the SDP canvassers say they are pointing, former Conservative voters are coming over to the Alliance, either for tactical reasons, or out of conviction, and, in one case, a paid up member of the Conservative Party actually gave £5 to the Alliance campaign, Mr Jenkins must be regarded as the favourite to win.

However, it would be a rash man who would predict the result of what is bound to be a tight contest. There are still a large number of undecided voters in Hillhead, around one third of the electorate according to some canvass returns, and it will be their final choice on Thursday which will determine the outcome.

Ian Bradley



William Rodgers:
Price of privilege

Stockton, North, is keeping its political feelings firmly under wraps. At a time of rain drenched Billingham, the heart of the constituency Mr William Rodgers has served for 21 years, there were no detectable signs on Wednesday that a general election was taking place. On the sprawling estates around the town centre, houses kept their counsel. In street after street not a single party political poster was on display and householders showed a distinct lack of interest in an election that will decide the future of Mr Rodgers and his espoused Social Democrat Party.

The general feeling was that Stockton will remain, as always, solidly Labour and that since Mr Rodgers has chosen to switch sides he will pay for that privilege with his seat.

Labour supporters had long memories and resented his decision to leave more than they were willing to respect his motives for leaving. Some were critical, too, of his decision to hold on to the seat which he won as a Labour candidate rather than fighting a by-election two years ago.

In all this has not been an easy campaign for Mr Rodgers.

There have been ugly scenes. He has been spat at, punched and shouted down, all of which he declares optimistically will provide nails for Labour's coffin. His election broadcast personal record as MP for Stockton and makes no mention of the SDP or the Alliance. He felt justified in doing this, he said, because his personal vote was obviously important. While he had changed his party he had not changed the principles in which he fundamentally believed.

The Labour Party locally had complained about that but there can be few voters in Stockton unaware of the SDP-Liberal Alliance and who is representing it. With less than a week to go Mr Rodgers' strongest hope rests on a late improvement in Alliance support nationally to which he can add some personal votes, the legacy of more than two decades' service to Stockton.

He may also be helped by any shift away from the left wing of the Labour Party although Mr Frank Cook, the Labour candidate, is unlikely to prove unacceptably radical to Stockton voters who last time gave Mr Rodgers a majority of over 11,000 votes. Mr Cook is an enthusiastic supporter of all points in the Labour manifesto.

But he is perhaps underestimating the work being put in by Mr Harry Davies, a local headmaster and well-known local politician who has been wearing down his knuckles on Stockton, North, doors on behalf of the Conservative Party. No chance here that Mr Rodgers, unlike his colleague across the Tees, will be presented with a Conservative opponent who is unmasked as a former National Front candidate or a Labour candidate who could prove unacceptably left-wing.

Ronald Faux



David Owen:
High profile

Dr David Owen claims a large share of the credit for the apparent collapse of the Labour support nationally. As the Alliance turns its attack to block a Conservative landslide, the deputy leader of the SDP casts an almost despairing eye towards the Conservatives in Plymouth Devonport as they threaten to capture the constituency.

His fear is that a Conservative landslide will not only prove that he was right about the state of the Labour Party but also that it will sweep all before it, including the SDP.

As the general election campaign began, Dr Owen's first press conference in Plymouth was subdued. In what had supposedly become a safer Labour seat through boundary changes, he prepared to withstand an attack for his defection from the Labour Party and his refusal to stand in by-election in a constituency he admitted was no hotbed of Militant activity.

If such an attack was started he found and now admits that to his surprise he did not have to apologize at all for his position; to the contrary, he said, he has encountered little hostility and instead has witnessed the crumbling of the Labour vote. "They are saying more in sorrow than in anger - 'David, you should have stayed'."

Dr Owen, a Plymouth MP since 1966, claims that Labour can no longer win Devonport; the Conservatives' Miss Ann Widdecombe, supports the theory of a two-horse race between herself and the SDP while Mr Julian Priestley for Labour says in turn that Dr Owen is out of the running.

Dr Owen never believed that of the "gang of four" his seat in the West Country was the most likely to be retained.

He says that the Alliance must achieve at least 25 per cent support in the opinion polls if he is to win Devonport and appears now at last to believe it is possible.

In 1979 Dr Owen carried the then Conservative swing and kept his seat for Labour with a halved majority of about 1,000. His period as Labour's controversial Foreign Secretary and his later prominence in the SDP and the Alliance has established a high profile image which he now hopes will serve him well in a fight he describes as "very tough".

Dr Owen believes he played a significant, if not leading, role in giving the Alliance a credible defence policy, and exposing that of the Labour Party, while his support of the Government during the Falklands has probably stood him in good stead in a constituency dominated by the Naval dockyard where 13,000 employees are nervous about the future employment prospects.

His concern now is to persuade Devonport electors, that they need tough alternative voice in the Commons, not a third Plymouth Conservative.

Dr Owen said: "I have conducted a campaign which at least had some intellectual consistency. The first phase was to get Labour out of the way and the second is now to harness the desire to check Mrs Thatcher. The likelihood of a landslide victory for the Conservatives is causing considerable anxiety to a lot of people who were hitherto planning to vote for them."

If the Labour vote in Devonport is collapsing, its extent is crucial to Dr Owen's chances. Mr Julian Priestley, claims not to have detected a great deal of movement in party positions.

He said: "The Labour vote is holding up extremely well and although some of the underdogs are making up their minds, it is not in any one direction. Our canvass returns show Labour significantly ahead in terms of promised votes, the Tories are a good second and the SDP and Dr Owen a considerably way behind."

Mr Keith Griffiths, the Conservative agent in Devonport, claims that Dr Owen is still showing only 20 per cent support in the constituency, although it is still rising, while the Conservatives are well ahead with 45 to 46 per cent support and Labour now falling below 30 per cent.

The Conservatives' surprise at their apparent lead is hard to hide. Mr Griffiths says with some confidence: "The Labour Party can say goodbye to Devonport. The competition is between the Conservatives and the SDP. The Labour vote is collapsing and splitting between the two of us."

Craig Seton

Pym says EEC pull-out will lead to chaos

By Our Political Staff

While Mr Francis Pym, Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary, labelled the Labour Party's policy of withdrawal from the European Community "unbelievably damaging" and "a recipe for chaos", Mr Peter Shore, Labour's shadow Chancellor of the Exchequer, yesterday continued to deny that the plan would result in any loss of jobs.

He said it was "nonsense" for defenders of EEC membership to suggest that 2.5 million jobs would be lost. He agreed that there were that many people involved in Britain's exports to Europe. "Of course that is the case," he said, "but 2.5 million jobs are involved in the Community in exporting goods to Britain."

Mr Shore was replying to a question at Labour's press conference in London. "If the implication of your question is that we lose the possibility of supplying Europe by leaving the Rome Treaty, which is quite wrong anyway, then clearly they must lose 2.5 million jobs in exporting to Britain," Mr Shore said. "I think you will see now why it is nonsense."

Mr Pym, at the Conservative Party press conference, accused Labour of being deliberately obscure about the alternative arrangements they intended to make to secure our export markets. "Given the importance of the community market for jobs, investment, trade and agriculture, it is quite astonishing that Labour should treat the

electorate with such contempt," Mr Pym said.

"They won't trust them to vote in another referendum... they have prevaricated over the support they would give to UK agriculture outside the Community."

"Their ill-defined timetable for withdrawal is a recipe for chaos, and will do immense damage to our international standing."

It was all too easy, Mr Pym said, to get lost in the trees and forget what the Community really meant. "It has made unthinkable that the historical rivalries of Western Europe should ever again lead to world war, it provides the political and economic weight to increase our influence in the world, and to enable us to establish a partnership of equals with the United States and it buys from us more than half as much again as the United States, Japan and the Commonwealth put together."

Mrs Thatcher said that membership of the EEC had not been an issue for the Conservative Party for some time. Getting the fisheries agreement had been a great achievement.

"We had hoped that it would be followed by new long-term arrangements for financing the community," she said. "That has not happened yet, but work is being done on it... and I have said that we simply must have another interim arrangement on the budget this year."

Union branch supports SDP candidate

An SDP candidate who already has the personal backing of Mr Frank Chapple, the TUC chairman, yesterday received open endorsement and a £50 donation from a "rebel" trade union branch.

The unanimous decision to support Mr John Grant, SDP industry spokesman and candidate for Islington North London, was taken by the trade union and political branch of the Association of Professional Executive Clerical and Computer Staffs (APEX) representing about 150 white-collar staff who work at Mr Chapple's Electronics' Union headquarters at Bromley, Kent, and in the union's area offices.

Labour plans 200-mile fishing limit

From Our Correspondent, Glasgow

A future Labour government would establish a 200-mile fishing limit similar to those of Iceland and Norway, Mr Norman Buchanan, Labour fisheries spokesman, said in Aberdeen yesterday.

Once Britain had withdrawn from the EEC a 200-mile limit would allow bilateral agreements with EEC countries and with Norway over access to British waters, he added.

Included in Labour's plans were benefits for fishermen including a minimum wage, a pension scheme, redundancy arrangements and improved safety training, said Mr Buchanan.

THE ISSUES

DEVOLUTION

The pageant runs out of breath

By Julian Haviland

Political Editor

Outside the four seats which nationalists are defending - two in Scotland and two in Wales - and the two or three where they have some hope of a gain, little breath is being spent on the question which took so much of the time of the last Parliament but one and by which the last Labour government lived and died.

In October 1974 the Conservative Manifesto promised the Scots an assembly in Edinburgh. In May 1979, after Labour's vain attempt to establish one, the Conservatives spoke only of a commitment to discussions about the future government of Scotland.

By 1980 that commitment was discharged and today the Conservative Manifesto for the United Kingdom says nothing, while the Scottish edition briefly notes the creation of the Commons select committee on Scottish affairs and adds: "We remain ready to consider further changes to improve the government of Scotland within the United Kingdom."

So the pageant has faded. Tory pragmatism, which revealed the beauty of a Scottish Assembly to Mr Edward Heath in 1968, and the mischief of it to Mrs Margaret Thatcher 10 years later, has easily adapted to the surge and retreat of Scottish nationalism.

Mr George Younger, the Secretary of State for Scotland, said in Edinburgh last October: "I do not believe most people in Scotland are any longer interested in this subject as a practical proposition."

The Labour Party, equally opportunist but less flexible, made shift to govern from 1974 to 1979 with the support of the Scottish National Party and Plaid Cymru and fell when they forfeited that support. In the election which followed they dropped the Welsh but kept the Scottish assembly in their scheme of things.

This year they again propose a directly-elected assembly and executive for Scotland.

For Wales, Labour is "examining how best to improve local democracy".

The ancient Liberal belief in federalism has been submerged in the Alliance manifesto beneath something less precise. They offer a Scottish Parliament, with powers to tax but not to run a budget deficit.

Tomorrow: Northern Ireland



Devon diversion: Sir Geoffrey Howe relaxing on the bowling green at Plymouth Hoe yesterday.

Oil millions 'squandered' on unemployment benefit

By Our Political Staff

The "wasted millions" of North Sea oil revenue provided the main theme of the Liberal/SDP Alliance and Labour campaign press briefings in London yesterday.

The Alliance, with Mr David Steel, the Liberal leader, and Mr William Rodgers, one of the "founding four" of the SDP, as spokesmen, produced three black barrels labelled "North Sea Oil" to illustrate how tax revenue from such a quantity of oil had to be used to pay unemployment benefit for a married couple for a week.

"The point we are making is that three-quarters of all tax revenue from North Sea oil last year went directly to finance benefits for the dole queue," Mr Steel said.

Huge sums which could have been used on investment to produce jobs had been "frittered away", while investment had dropped to below 2 per cent of the gross national product last year, compared with 6 per cent 10 years ago.

The Alliance was accusing the Government of failing to "invest forward" in the British economy, Mr Steel said.

Mr John Smith, the Labour Party's energy spokesman, said that since 1979 Mrs Thatcher had received £20,500m in North Sea oil revenues, one of the greatest windfalls any British Government has had, but she has squandered the whole of it to pay for the cost of the extra unemployment she has created.

He said that without the extra revenue she would have had to cut unemployment benefit or increase taxes massively.

"In the one case she would have courted social revolution, in the other she would have lost all political support," Mr Smith said. "What a tragedy that this sum has not been used in British industry... We believe the revenue should be used to rebuild our industry and to inject demand into the economy to get it moving again."

CONSTITUENCY PROFILE Kingswood

'Outsider' versus the local

CANDIDATES

T. Walker (Lab)

R. Hayward (Con)

M. Gilbert (SDP/All)

Kingswood could be one of the closest contests. As the Labour and Conservative candidates fight for every vote, doorstep by doorstep, both must be preoccupied with the same question: how much extra advantage does a well-known local have over an outsider?

The new Kingswood has been substantially redrawn, but as Labour MP for the old seat between 1974-79 and Mr Terry Walker is a familiar figure, whereas Mr Robert Hayward, Conservative, selected six weeks ago, came from Swindon.

Mr Hayward, aged 34, a personal manager, has a typically smooth and efficient Tory campaign machine behind him, while Mr Walker, aged 48, a newspaperman, is desperately short of canvassers.

If all is harmony in the Labour Party now, they have a funny way of showing it in Kingswood. Mr Walker beat Mr Ron Thomas, a prominent Bristol left-winger, to become candidate, and a significant number of party activists promptly decamped to assist

Profile of Kingswood

1981 % Own Occ 68

1981 % Loc Auth 27

1981 % Black/Asian 1

1981 % Mixed 36

1981 % Prof man 10

1982 electorate 72,918

1979 BBC/ITN national results Lab maj 3,900

Note: % Owner Occ proportion owning their own homes; % Loc auth: proportion of council housing; % Black/Asian: proportion from New Commonwealth or Pakistan; % Mixed: proportion of non-white workers; % Prof man: proportion of professional, managerial and intermediate occupations; % Electorate: total population aged 18 and over; % National results: 1979 BBC/ITN study data.

Mr Tony Benn's campaign in neighbouring Bristol, East.

Both the main parties accept that it is a highly marginal seat, and Mr Hayward believes that it will probably be decided by about 2,000 votes. The two-party fight is likely to mean that Mr Martin Gilbert, SDP, will feel the squeeze. He is building from a Liberal base of under 5,000 votes in the old constituency.

In spite of Labour's shortage of activists, Mr Walker believes he will achieve a 100 per cent canvass. The party's difficulty is finding any passion, anger, or

even great interest about any particular issue.

That is a bad sign for the party. Boundary changes removed large areas of middle-class Bristol suburbs to the east, and brought in what should be more Labour inclined wards nearer the city, but the constituency's marginality apparently remains.

Mr Hayward, who lost his deposit at Carmarthen in 1974, points out that at last month's Bristol city council elections wards in Kingswood polled slightly in favour of his party. Two wards that Labour should have held were won by a Conservative and a Liberal, he said.

Mr Gilbert, the Alliance candidate, aged 34, an ambulance service worker, who was born in Bristol, is a preacher and community worker in the area. Labour claims it has encountered little SDP support, but Mr Gilbert can claim that the recent city elections showed the Liberal arm of the Alliance doing well in areas such as Kingswood. The more votes he pulls, the more harm is likely to be done to Mr Walker's chances of victory.

Craig Seton

CONSTITUENCY PROFILE Foyle

The sectarian struggle

CANDIDATES

J. Hume (SDLP)

M. McGuinness (PSF)

G. Campbell (DUP)

E. O'Grady (All)

G. McLaugh (WR)

It was in Londonderry that British troops went on to the streets in the current troubles and history of another kind is being made in the constituency which now includes Ulster's second city. The outcome of the struggle between Mr John Hume, aged 46, leader of the Social Democratic and Labour Party (SDLP), and Mr Martin McGuinness, aged 33, of the Provisional Sinn Féin (PSF) will be momentous, whoever emerges as victor.

A defeat for the province's best known nationalist politician on his home ground would probably be fatal to the SDLP's fortunes but victory will be historic. It would be the first time the city, which has a nationalist majority, would have a Roman Catholic MP at Westminster.

It is a prize the SDLP wants through Mr Hume, well known in Dublin, Brussels and the United States has had to overcome personal misgivings about Westminster. A party worker said: "People know a

Profile of Foyle

1971 % RC 60

1979 % Electorate 63,486

1979 % SDLP national result 2,000

1979 % SDLP national result 2,000

Note: % RC: Roman Catholic; % Electorate: total population aged 18 and over; % National results: 1979 BBC/ITN study data.

nationalist has never gone to Westminster from here. They will come out to send John."

The constituency with 67,918 voters takes in 80 per cent of the old Londonderry seat and St James, making it strongly nationalist. With a two to one nationalist majority Foyle mirrors the

province itself. In Londonderry, where the SDLP took overall control of the city council for the first time in 1981 with 41 per cent of the votes, unemployment is at 28 per cent rising to 36 per cent among men and is higher in areas like Creggan, Bogside and Shantallow.

This reservoir of people is fertile ground for the Provisional Sinn Féin who have five advice centres manned by the unemployed as part of their

grass roots politics. They are mounting personal attacks on Mr Hume as a "failed leader" while attempting to take advantage of his party's decision to abstain on a motion in the council trying to remove "London" from its name.

Mr McGuinness, who has served two prison sentences in the republic for membership of the IRA, appears diffident but is an articulate exponent of politics Sinn Féin style as he sits in his office surrounded by many left-wing books.

Rival Unionists agreed a deal

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Nuclear arms in Europe

Nato backs twin-track policy of negotiations and missile deployment

From Frederick Bonpart, Brussels

Nato's defence ministers reaffirmed their strong belief in the "twin-track decision" of 1979, "twin-track" meaning the simultaneous pursuit of negotiations and the deployment of American medium-range Cruise and Pershing 2 missiles in Europe and, at the same time, attempting to reach arms control agreement with the Soviet Union.

They emphasized that the security of the alliance depended on the continued presence of American troops in Europe and the US strategic nuclear commitment, as well as on the defence and deterrent capabilities of the European member nations.

There were some reservations, introducing a discordant note in addition to the usual Greek reservation on allied support for the US negotiating position in Geneva.

Mr Hans Engell, the Danish Defence Minister, spoke of a motion critical of stationing missiles in this country passed by the opposition in the Danish Parliament a few days ago.

In a somewhat ambiguous statement, Spain also reserved its position pending a review regarding its participation in the alliance.

The main purpose of the meeting was to issue a ministerial guidance which serves as the main political directive for Nato defence planning and gives directions for the preparation of the Nato force goals for the period of 1985-1990.

Underlining the growing disparity between Nato and Warsaw Pact forces, the ministers decided that greater financial resources would have to be provided and agreed that their 3 per cent target for annual increase in defence expenditure was still the best solution.

However, they emphasized that member nations would have to take steps to make their existing forces more effective. This could be achieved by modernization, higher readiness and "sustainability" (the ability to go on fighting for longer periods), by the implementation of the rapid reinforcement plan, better air defence and the provision of additional reserve units.

New technology offered a "significant potential" in improving conventional forces and progress was seen in the direction of "coordination national efforts in ensuring the exploration of emerging technologies".

With a clear reference to the United States, the ministers urged member nations to take account of Nato defence planning initiatives for making "opportunities in transatlantic cooperation".

In an earlier briefing, Herr Manfred Wörner, the West German Defence Minister, said that he had made it clear to Mr Caspar Weinberger, his American opposite number, that he was all for such cooperation but Bonn was already producing some of this equipment, and technology and production should be on a 50-50 basis.

Reference was made to the previously contentious issue of the degree of assistance to be given by one member country to another, especially the United States, which was able to send forces to deal with developments beyond the Nato area which "might threaten the vital interests of members of the alliance".

According to a senior Nato official, the Europeans and the United States were now fairly close to an agreement on general principles. Concrete results could only be obtained on a case-by-case basis, he said.

Dr Joseph Luns, Nato's Secretary-General, pointed out at yesterday's meeting that the danger to Europe was not limited to the Soviet SS20 missile, as some of the shorter-range Soviet nuclear weapons could also hit the whole of Europe. The SS20, for instance, is known to have a range of over 350 miles, with ranges of 300 to 400 miles for others.

Mr Caspar Weinberger, the US Defence Secretary, confirmed that Soviet battlefield nuclear weapons had been stationed in Eastern Europe for a long time, but he maintained that they would be included in arms control negotiations.

Nato officials added that a high-level group of senior officials was studying ways of reducing these types of weapons prior to submitting a report for the autumn meeting of Nato's nuclear planning group.

Dr Luns noted that the strength of the alliance lay in technological advance. The ministers agreed that this enabled them to make "substantial improvements in the conventional defence of the alliance and decided to coordinate national efforts to ensure the exploitation of new technologies."



More blasts as Peru steps up security

A Peruvian policeman inspects the identification papers of passengers travelling from Lima into the Andes at a roadblock outside Matucana. Checks have been stepped up since a state of emergency was declared on Monday.

Police said yesterday that guerrillas had set off dynamite blasts in various parts of the country, AP reports.

In Ayacucho, heartland of the leftist guerrillas movement, 350 miles south-east of Lima, the guerrillas took advantage of a 90-minute power blackout caused by an earlier attack to set fire to the Government Cultural Institute. The fire was put out quickly and there was no injuries.

In Huaraz, 195 miles north of the capital, a shop and the house of a policeman were bombed. No one was hurt.

Police in Chimbote, 250 miles north of Lima, said eight suspected terrorists were captured at the town of Ancos after six explosions, in which no one was hurt.

Police sources in Lima, meanwhile, indicated that the wave of arrests since President Fernando Belaunde declared the emergency suspending civil rights was slowing down.

But the socialist newspaper *El Diario* reported more than a hundred people had been detained for questioning on Wednesday in 11 cities and towns outside the capital.

Indonesia expels two Russians

Jakarta - Indonesia has asked two Soviet diplomats known to be engaged in espionage activities to leave the country when their visas expire, security officials said, Our Correspondent writes.

The move, seen here as low-key in comparison to the expulsion of a deputy military attaché last year, came after the regional magazine *Asia Week* claimed its local correspondent had been offered money by a senior member of the Soviet Embassy in exchange for regular reports.

Neither the officials nor the Indonesian local press identifies the two diplomats by name. Diplomatic observers pointed out that Mr Mochtar Kusumaatmadja, the Indonesian Foreign Minister is due to visit the Soviet Union before the end of the year.

Calvi associate arrested

Milan (Reuters) - Signor Bruno Tassan Din, the former director of Italy's widely respected newspaper, *Corriere della Sera*, was arrested yesterday and charged with foreign exchange violations and complicity in last year's collapse of the Milan-based Banco Ambrosiano.

The arrest followed inquiries into loans of several million dollars alleged to have been channelled by the late Roberto Calvi, the bank's managing director, to Signor Tassan Din through foreign associates.

Cricket fund nears target

Kingston (Reuters) - A Jamaican fund-raising drive to dislodge West Indian cricketers from playing in South Africa has almost reached its target of £100,000, Mr Edward Seaga, the Prime Minister, said.

The West Indies Cricket Board of Control asked regional governments to help to finance three-year contracts for about 22 players to carry out coaching and other promotional activities in the region.

Mercy mission

Dr Andrew Doig, the former Moderator of the Church of Scotland, flew to Malawi yesterday to plead with President Hastings Banda for the lives of Mr Orton Chirwa and his wife Vera, who are due to be executed for treason next Thursday.

Slick seen

Bahrain (Reuters) - An oil slick over half a mile in diameter has been spotted near Saudi Arabia's eastern coast. It is part of the huge slick from shattered Iranian wells in the Gulf war zone, and is likely soon to affect the Saudi industrial port of Jubail.

Chess clash

Grandmaster Victor Korchnoi (left) and the Soviet prodigy Garry Kasparov will meet in the world chess championship in the US later this year. The other semifinal between Zoltan Ribli of Hungary and Vasili Smyslov of the Soviet Union will meet in the United Arab Emirates.

Murder appeal

Johannesburg - An appeal by Mrs Maureen Smith, a British citizen sentenced to death in South Africa for the murder of her husband, will be heard by the appeal court in Bloemfontein on August 16.

Bombing truce

Paris (Reuters) - Corsican separatists have said they will observe a truce in their bombing campaign when President Mitterand visits the Mediterranean island in 10 days time.

Lost GIs hunt

Hanoi (AFP) - A delegation of four US military experts arrived in Hanoi for a third round of discussions on the American servicemen missing in action during the Vietnam war.

Suspects held

Rome (AP) - Police have arrested 17 suspected leftist terrorists and sympathizers near Rome and Naples in a new crackdown. Thirteen were picked up in southern Naples.

Holiday cheer

Paris (AFP) - The French Government will send 300 special financial inspectors to seaside and mountain resorts this summer to protect holiday-makers from being overcharged.

Correction

In yesterday's report from Warsaw the reference to a party report by Professor Hieronym Kubiak should have read: "It is now clear that the report will not be published."

Demirel reports for detention

Canakkale, Turkey (Reuters) - Mr Suleyman Demirel, the former Turkish Prime Minister, and other politicians ordered to be detained in the latest political clampdown, were taken into custody yesterday at a military base near here.

The ruling generals decreed on Tuesday that 16 politicians, including Mr Demirel, must report by yesterday to military authorities in Canakkale to be detained until after the general election set for November 6.

The decree also abolished one of five political parties which emerged since the ban on parties was lifted in April.

As Mr Demirel's car approached Canakkale from Ankara, it was diverted by the police to a seaside military establishment at Zincirbasi where the politicians are being held, at least for the time being.

By early evening, all detainees had arrived at Zincirbasi except Mr Isihan Sabri Caglayanli, the former Foreign Minister, who was visiting the Soviet Union when the decree was issued.

Papandreou ignores protests

From Mario Meliades, Athens

Unruffled by protest strikers sweeping Greece, and the hostile slogans hurled by thousands of demonstrators massed outside Parliament, the Socialist Government is pressing ahead with its controversial legislation imposing severe restrictions on public sector strikes.

Parliament's Socialist majority was expected to obey the party whip and vote its approval of the Bill when the heated emergency debate ended.

The Bill authorizes the "socialization" of state-controlled banks, enterprises and public utilities, by introducing "active" worker participation, and also makes strikes illegal unless they are approved by an absolute majority of union membership in a secret ballot.

The law, clearly designed to curb the power of the pro-Soviet Greek Communist Party (KKE) to stir up labour trouble, now threatened to wreck the benevolent truce observed between the Socialist Government and the Communist opposition for the past 19 months.

Already Mr Harilaos Florakis, the KKE's secretary general, challenged the Government in Parliament on Wednesday night either to withdraw the Bill or hold early elections.

The present parliamentary majority was elected by the people on its express assurance that it would defend and broaden the labour freedoms and the rights of the workers," Mr Florakis said. "Instead it is pressing legislation virtually abolishing the right to strike in the public sector... The only democratic solution is to go to elections."

The Government's ulterior motive remains a mystery. One school of thought suggests that the aim is to emasculate the KKE's reaction in case of agreement with the Americans about the continued operation of US military bases in Greece.

Another view is that the precaution was vital because of a new set of austerity measures planned by the Government to curb the vast deficits run by the public enterprises, and to bridge the widening gap in the balance of payments with new loans from Western banks.

The moot point just now is whether or not the KKE will forsake the benefits of the truce with the Government and ask its trade unionists to defy the law with illegal strikes.

The conservative New Democracy, the main opposition party, which finds the KKE a strange bedfellow in its opposition to this Bill, stated that it would not incite workers to defy the law.

Crop project threatened by dropouts

From David Watts, Singapore

The plantations will be joint ventures between CDC and the National Development Company of the Philippines. Both are still at the planning stage.

The corporation is employing a Manila firm to assess local farmers' response to their proposal to establish a plantation of 4,000 hectares of oil palm and rubber with a 50-hectare experiment plot of cacao.

Local church men agree that the corporation is taking care in establishing whether the farmers would like to join the scheme, but say it is naive to think that the task can be done without local influence as the CDC professes.

They also say that the CDC is not, as it claims, giving the local people what they want but is offering plantations of crops not indigenous to the area on a take-it-or-leave-it basis.

Some local politicians have welcomed the corporation proposals, but the church maintains that such agribusiness development will destroy the local social infrastructure which, though relatively primitive, has high moral values.

CDC says it can bring a standard of living previously unheard of, and make better use of the land which, if left as it is, would eventually be unable to support the population.

When China annexed Tibet in 1950, it appointed the Dalai Lama chairman of a commission preparing Tibet's transition to an autonomous region under Peking's control. After the 1959 rebellion was crushed, a drive to eradicate Buddhism got under way, reaching its worst excesses in the cultural revolution.

Most monasteries were destroyed. The Dalai Lama has said that number dropped from 3,700 to only 13. The Chinese have never disclosed figures, but Mr Ngapo Ngawang Jigme, a Tibetan who lives in Peking and is a vice-chairman of the National people's Congress, admitted in *Beijing Review* last year that "the extent of the destruction was unprecedented in our history".

Asked how many Tibetans still believed in Buddhism after 33 years under communism, the party member said about 100 per cent.

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Reagan tells Rowny to be sensible

From Our Correspondent Washington

President Reagan is planning to revise the American proposal at the Strategic Arms Reduction Talks (Start) with the Soviet Union and has told Mr Edward Rowny, his chief negotiator, to examine all Soviet proposals seriously and be flexible.

Mr Rowny disclosed this to journalists after seeing the President at the White House on Wednesday before the resumption of Start in Geneva next Wednesday.

Mr Rowny said the President had assured him that he would modify his instructions to make them fully consistent with the recommendations of the independent Scowcroft Commission report on the MX missile.

One recommendation was that the US should seek a Start agreement that limited the nuclear warheads rather than the missile launchers of each superpower.



Nato's iron fist: Dr Joseph Luns (right) and Mr Caspar Weinberger at yesterday's press conference.

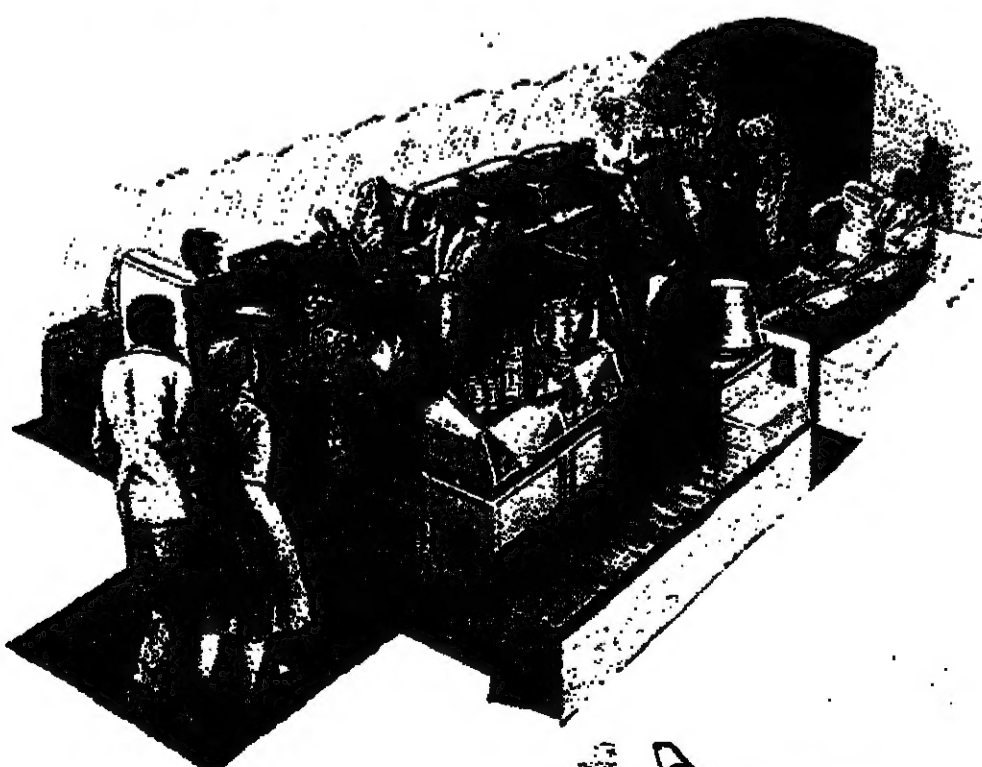
Last July in Start the US called for each side to reduce the number of long-range nuclear warheads by about one third to 5,000 each.

The President is to hold a meeting of his National Security Council probably on Tuesday to decide how to revise the current American proposal.

The *New York Times* yesterday reported that the State and Defence Department disagreed on revisions in the US position. The Report said it was certain that within the next week or so the President would raise the proposed ceiling of 850 deployed strategic missiles on each side, as most officials wanted to make agreement with Moscow easier.

The US now has 1,500 strategic missiles compared with 2,343 for the Soviet Union. Mr Rowny said: "We have a good proposal on the table which lends itself to incorporating the changes that the President will decide are needed" to carry out the Scowcroft Commission recommendations.

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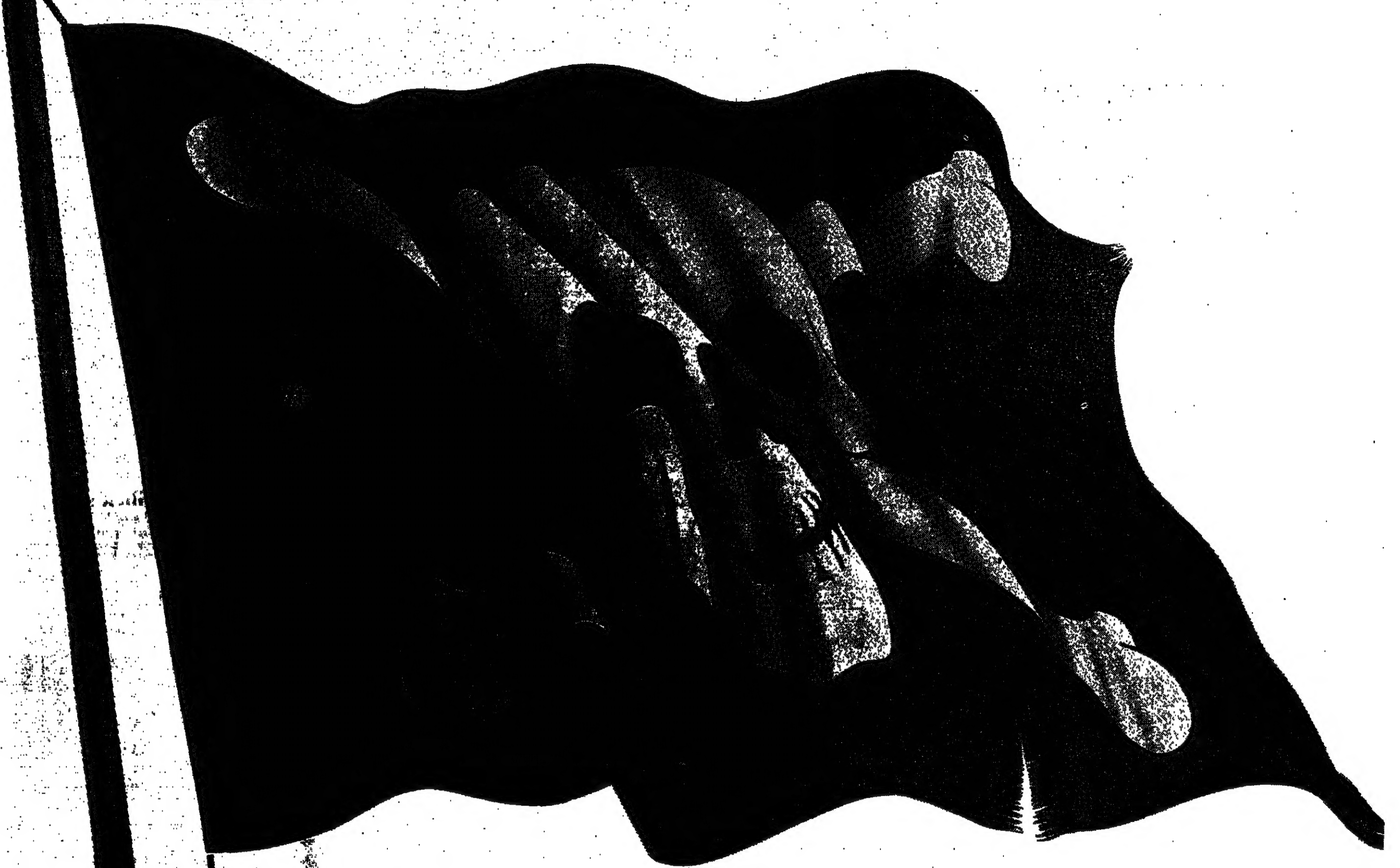
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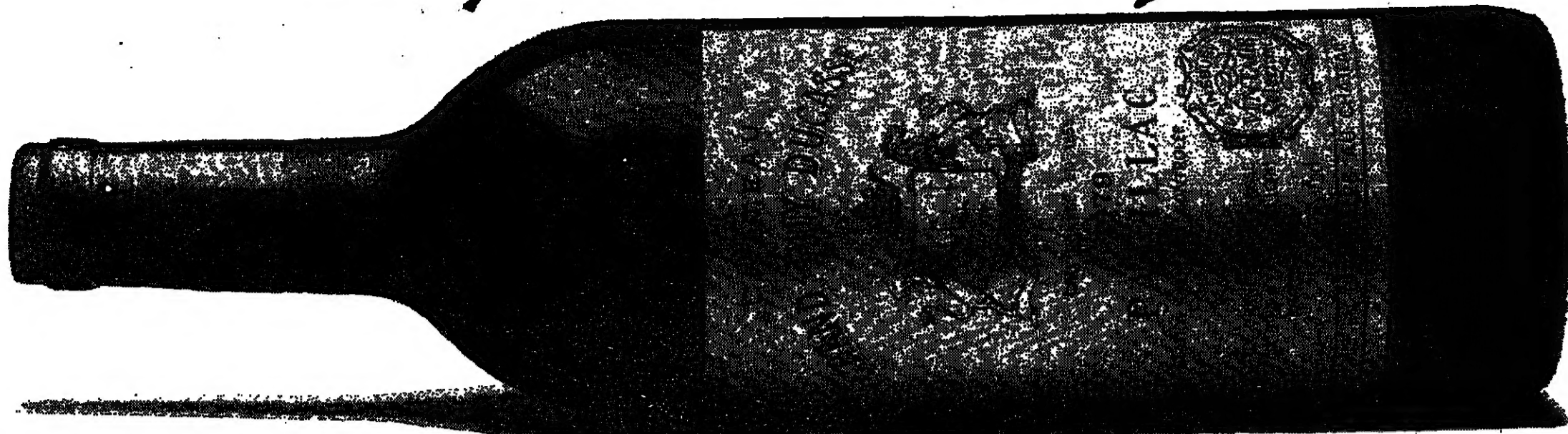
P&O



Sainsbury's Vintage Selection.

It reads like the wine list in a good restaurant.

Until you come to the prices.



If you're a wine buff who's been buffeted by rising prices you'll welcome our Vintage Selection.

You'll find the quality familiar and the prices, quite often, nostalgic. All twenty-nine wines have been tasted and tested by our wine buyers, who have been working, if you can call it work, on this selection for 12 months. (Over 600 wines were considered before the final selection was made.)

All of the wines are ready to drink now though some are suitable for laying down.

Many of them come with established reputations like the Puligny Montrachet or Château Grand Puy Ducasse.

Some are more unusual, like the delicious dessert wine Moulin Touchais from the Loire – or our dry red wine from Portugal called Quinta Da Bacalhã.

Many are virtually exclusive to Sainsbury's and all bear our Vintage Seal on the label.

You'll find the complete list in 20 of our largest stores and a further 130 stores will carry a good selection.

We hope you'll enjoy reading about the wines below and that you'll be tempted to turn a wine list into something even more satisfying.

A shopping list.

1. Château Grand Puy Ducasse 1979 Pauillac.

A classic Claret from one of the most important communes in the Médoc. Full bodied with good fruit and tannin this wine will develop over the next three or four years into a fine wine of distinction. £7.45.

2. Château Jean-Fauré 1979 Grand Cru St. Émilion.

Like all St. Émilions this wine will drink younger than the great growth clarets and is already soft and fruity. The 1979 is delightfully drinkable and offers, along with elegant medium weight, a bouquet with a hint of violets. £5.45.



3. Château de Poncie 1981 Fleurie.

The true charm and distinction of one of the most delicate of the Beaujolais. Granite soil and the Gamay grape have combined in one of the more southerly Beaujolais villages to produce a wine which is soft, fruity and delicately perfumed. Superb with cold meats or cheese – but many would say with anything. £4.35.

4. Château Tourteau Choller 1980 Graves.

Graves, a huge area of wine production to the south of Bordeaux, is famed for its rich, slightly spicy red wines. Small proprietors abound in the area, producing wines which are firm when young and pay for keeping. Here is a pleasant fruity example of medium weight which will go happily with most meats or cheese. £3.60.

5. Château du Bousquet 1981 Cotes de Bourg.

Less well known than the Médocs which lie opposite, the wines of the Cotes de Bourg offer excellent value for money. The best of the slopes, near the river, include the vines from which this splendid example is formed. Although it will keep, it can be enjoyed now without hesitation. £3.20.

6. Gevrey Chambertin 1978.

Amongst the richest and most enduring of all the great Burgundies, this full-bodied and powerful wine, from the celebrated village on the slopes of the Côte de Nuits, will be enjoyed with the richer meats – a pheasant would be ideal. £8.95.

7. St. Amour 1980.

Produced on the granite soil of the most northerly of the nine nominated 'cru' villages which produce the best of the Beaujolais. St. Amour is fruity and fresh. £3.75.

8. Domaine de Palestor 1979 – Châteauneuf du Pape.

Châteauneuf du Pape is recognised the world over as the finest of the southern Rhônes. Dark, strong and long-lived. This is a fine example from the rocky vineyard of one of the leading growers and two or three years more bottle age will improve it. £5.25. (Coming shortly)

9. Gigondas 1981.

Like its more famous neighbour Châteauneuf du Pape, Gigondas is a deep, hearty, robust red wine, taking its character from the Grenache grapes which predominate in the blend. It will hold its own with game, roasts, casseroles and all cheese dishes. £4.35.

10. Château la Borie – Rhône 1982.

This is the product of a vineyard which was totally replanted 20 years ago. (It has grown in reputation as a result.) The presence of Syrah and Grenache in the blend gives the slight peppery sensation on the palate which is so characteristic of a Rhône wine. £2.99.



11. Château Barreyres 1979 Haut-Médoc.

The Médoc, on the west bank of the river, is the most important red wine district of Bordeaux. Here, from just north of the Margaux, is an excellent fruity claret of medium weight, which has been made with great care and would even improve with a few years bottle age. £3.55.

12. Domaine du Colombier 1982 Chinon.

Though less well-known there are some fine fresh light reds from the gravel soils of the Loire. This one has a distinct fruitiness and pleasant acidity. It is best drunk young and will happily accept a degree of chilling. £3.75.

13. Château de Gourgazaud 1980 – Minervois.

From the hilly country of the Languedoc-Roussillon but with more of the Cabernet Sauvignon grape than is usual. This makes for a distinctive medium-bodied wine of charm – robust enough for most meats and cheeses. £4.99. (Magnum)

14. Clos de La Mouchère 1980 – Puligny Montrachet.

Another great classic dry French white wine. Produced to the north of Meursault and lacking some of its softness it is, perhaps, the ultimate accompaniment to oysters but enhances any fish or white meat. £8.45.

15. Domaine De La Bizolière 1982 Savennières.

The white Anjou wines to the western end of the Loire Valley are characteristically dry and full bodied – some say with the crispness of new apples. Here is a fine example, best drunk young and served chilled. It is slightly flowery with good acidity. £3.60.



16. Meursault Moillard 1980.

Meursault's Pinot Chardonnay grapes provide some of the world's great white wines. Rich, smooth and dry, but mellow. This is a fine example, soft and full, which will mature and improve for two or three years. £6.95.

17. Sancerre Les Perriers 1982.

This was a good year in the Loire, where the Sauvignon grapes grown on limestone produce elegant, dry white wines. This fresh and fruity wine from Verdigny Commune is best drunk young and slightly chilled. £4.65.

18. Moulin Touchais 1964 – Anjou.

The valley of the Loire shelters the Chenin Blanc vines from which are made some exceptional white wines. In the limestone 'caves' at Doué la Fontaine lies a huge selection of some of France's best kept wine secrets. Moulin Touchais is one. The perfect dessert wine with plenty of fruit and a balanced sweetness best revealed when chilled. £5.75.

19. Château Tertre du Moulin 1982 Entre-deux-Mers.

Between the 'two seas' of the Dordogne and the Garonne lies a vast area of wine production. The whites of this area are allowed the 'appellation'. Here is a crisp, fruity dry white wine from a grower with an established reputation for consistent quality. £2.75.

20. Clos St. Georges 1981 Graves Supérieures.

Long before Graves was known for the red wines with which it is now most associated, it had a high reputation for sweet white wines. Clos St. Georges is found on the borders of Barsac. It has depth, style and length, which come through impressively on the palate. £2.99.

21. Château de Beaulieu 1980 Coteaux Du Layon.

Beaulieu is one of only six communes in this sheltered area to the south of the Loire to be granted the 'appellation'. This is an exceptional medium sweet white wine with lots of fruit and an acidity of considerable length which give it great style and depth. At its best lightly chilled with fresh fruit. £2.80.

22. Muscat de Beaumes – De-Venise.

This is a naturally sweet white wine from the southern end of the Rhône Valley. The sun has ample time to develop the sugar and add a delicate perfume and flavour. A dessert wine of great distinction. £4.25.

23. Uetziger Würzgarten Auslese 1975 Moselle.

The Riesling wines of Würzgarten are sheltered by mountains and this fragrant and spicy sweet wine is produced from selected (auslese) grapes. Serve chilled with desserts or as a special aperitif. £5.99.



24. Domaine De La Bretonnerie 1982, Muscadet De Sèvre et Maine Sur Lie. This Muscadet is named after two of the Loire's great tributaries. It has the added fruit and body which results from the grapes remaining longer on the vines ('sur lie'). Ideal with fish – especially shellfish. A light, dry and refreshing white wine. £2.99.

25. Kiedricher Heiligenstock Kabinett 1982 Rheingau.

From the pride of Germany's wineland come some splendid and white wines. This one is no exception. Elegant and well-balanced it is a distinguished accompaniment to most white meat and fish. £4.20.

26. Deidesheimer Heringsacker Kabinett 1981 Rheingau.

Wines from the Palatinate are rich, well flavoured, and lively and Deidesheimer is regarded as one of the best villages. This is a light medium dry white wine and versatile enough for fish, poultry or a chilled aperitif. £4.10.

27. Apetloner Gewürztraminer Beerenauslese 1981.

Specially selected and overripe grapes from the Gewürztraminer vines at Apetlon in the Burgenland of Austria, produce a wine of concentrated sweetness and depth to compare with the best of the Sauternes. Lightly chilled it makes a superb accompaniment to fruit or dessert. £4.95. (Coming shortly)

28. Amarone Pasqua 1978.

This is a Recioto della Valpolicella – not to be confused with the more popular wine of the latter name. Only the grapes from the 'ears' of the vine which have begun to dry in the sun are used. The result is a dry red wine of high quality and full flavour. £3.95. (Coming shortly)

29. Quinta da Bacalhã 1981.

Portuguese red wines have been a rather well-kept secret for too long. This one produced from Cabernet Sauvignon grapes, matured in chestnut casks, is similar to a dry red Bordeaux. Like all Portuguese reds, it will improve with keeping. £3.65.

Good wine costs less at Sainsbury's.

THE ARTS

Cinema

Goodies and baddies for children of all ages

Return of the Jedi (U)

Leicester Square Theatre;
Odeon, Marble Arch;
Dominion

The Hunger (18)

ABC, Shaftesbury Avenue

Jacques Becker season

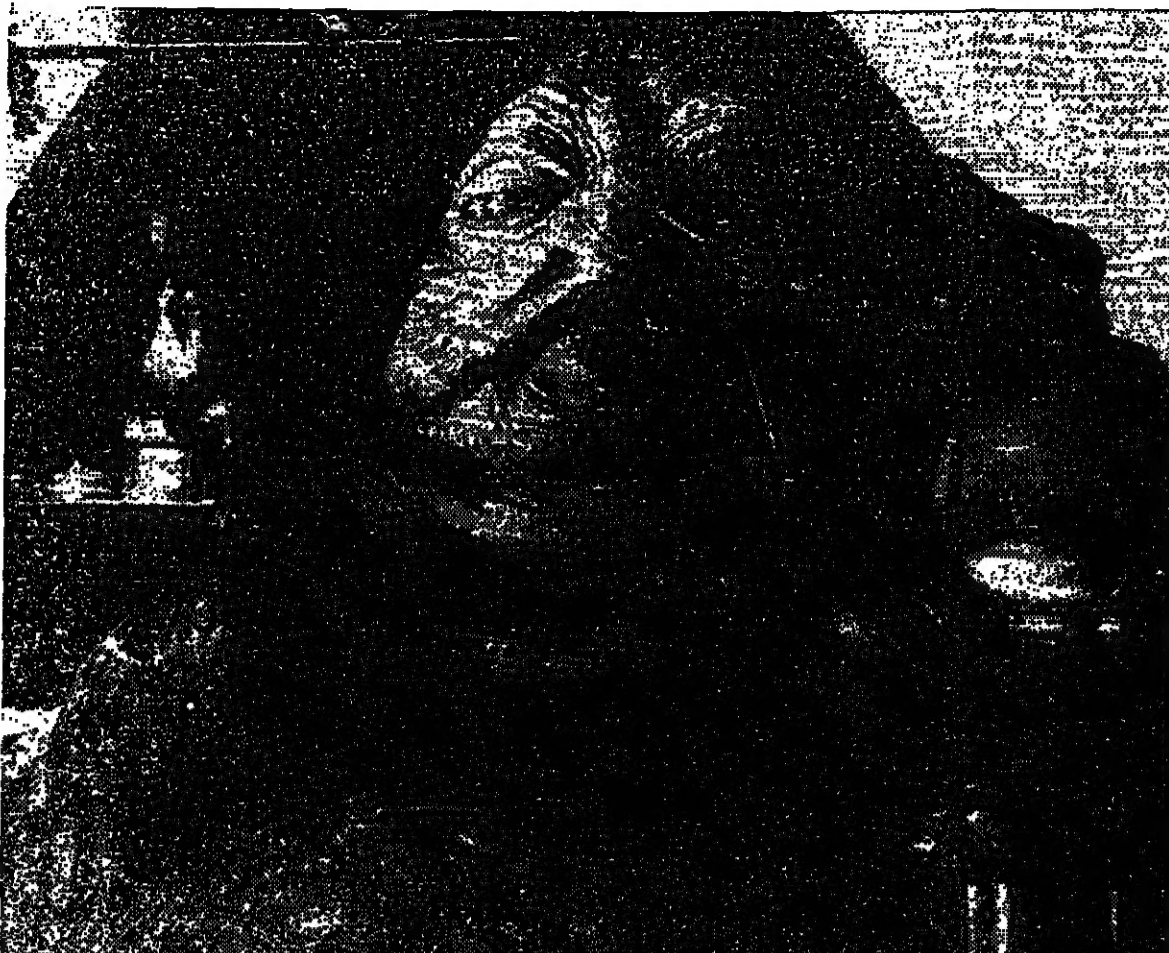
National Film Theatre

The *Star Wars* films are not like the *Grease* 11s, the *Halloween* 11s and *Rocky* 11s - sequels and spin-offs, but constitute a continuing serial. George Lucas, who remains the guiding hand as producer and principal writer, whoever the director may be (this time it is Richard Marquand), plans a cycle of nine episodes in all. *Star Wars*, *The Empire Strikes Back* and *Return of the Jedi* represent episodes 4, 5 and 6. In the old days of course serials came out weekly, but these three parts were released respectively in 1977, 1980 and 1983. At this rate of three-year intervals, not all of us will still be around to see how things turn out in chapter nine. Even the youngest patrons of the original *Star Wars* will be taking their own children to see a middle-aged Luke Skywalker and his rusting robots.

Lucas's declared intention had been to return to the style and naive pleasures of the weekly exploits of Flash Gordon and Captain Marvel; and true to the authentic method, the individual episodes tend to be replete with variations rather than actual progressions of a story. Luke and his chums are still doing battle with the evil usurper Emperor and his creature Darth Vader; and the denouement is the inevitable frenzied battle in space. This time the Emperor and Darth Vader are definitely conquered. The serial is planned in three triptych cycles: for the others (again true to the conventions of the form) the new villains will be found.

In approach and style there is some change for the worse, though it is unlikely to affect the preprogrammed appeal of the series. Special effects have more and more taken over from the human interest. The credits for technical work are now endless; and the effects become ever more marvellous in every department, whether the creation of space hardware, grotesque primeval monsters or cute and cuddly Disneyesque pets.

The invented creatures are a lot



Dragon monster Jabba in *Return of the Jedi*; he might have been invented by Tenniel for an X-rated Alice

more enjoyable than the humans who are always strictly two-dimensional, and whose relationships are now sketchier than ever. There is certainly more fun to be had with the denizens of the demonic disco in *Star Wars* who now form the court of a huge dragon monster called Jabba. With his enormous, scaly, toad-like head, sitting gross, greedy and flaccid, gobbling up his smaller subjects and toying lecherously with captive maidens, he might have been invented by Tenniel for an X-rated Alice.

The film remains a cunning and prodigious synthesis of every kind of popular myth. There are vague memories of classical legend in the basic story of a brother who risks falling in love with the sister whose identity he does not know, and who discovers in the same moment that the man whom it is his destiny to kill

is in fact his own father. The mystical sources of *The Force*, Darth Vader's atonement, and Luke's cries to his father in the extremities of torture have echoes of Christian lore. There are once again nods to the Hibernian pagantry of *Triumph of the Will*. Vader's funeral pyre looks even like a small homage to *Gandhi*.

The conflicts intermittently take on the style of Western or of Sword-and-Sorcery. The bad people are in their appearance amalgams of all the things we hate: Nazis, traffic cops, Mao suits. The latest addition to the good people is a tribe of teddy bears who sometimes carry on like Robin Hood and his Merry Men and at others like comic cannibals from strip cartoons. Aimed with deadly calculation at the child in all of us, *Return of the Jedi* estimates our mental age - no doubt quite accurately - at around six and a half.

At the moment of high euphoria for

British cinema, poor Tony Scott exemplifies the casualties of the bad times (before Channel Four) when even the most promising directors had small chance of exercising their craft. More than a decade ago Scott made an excellent and original low-budget film, financed by the British Film Institute, called *Loving Memory*. The years of waiting between then and *The Hunger* have been spent at the treadmill of commercials; and his new film goes to show the taint which too much of that can lay on talent and vision. Technically flawless, the film at every moment has the trashy chic of an extended commercial for cosmetics or soft furnishings, though more often it seems to be selling cigarettes.

Not that the screenplay gives any encouragement to do better. Adapted from a novel by Whitney Strieber which is clearly to be avoided, it is a fairly incoherent tale of mysticism,

magic and horror. Catherine Deneuve is a beautiful vampire who has ensured millennia of immortality by constantly appeasing *The Hunger* for blood. Susan Sarandon is a doctor with a more scientific interest in longevity and aging. David Bowie's rather brief appearance as a lover-victim of Deneuve with a bad case of rapid aging provides the film's most consoling moments. The make-up men and Bowie's clever mime make quite a feat out of the aging; and the film almost rises to a touch of humour with the scene of Bowie growing several hundred years older in a doctor's waiting room.

It is still very small compensation for all the other flashy silliness, and the effortful evocation of a nude lesbian-vampire encounter between Deneuve and Sarandon - both of whom are actresses far too attractive to have this wished upon them.

The National Film Theatre's French year moves on this month to a complete retrospective of the 13 films completed by Jacques Becker. Becker (1906-1960), consistently made films that were and remain enjoyable, and made his own strong contribution to the prestige and popularity of the French cinema in the post-war decade. He almost became an actor; he played in Jean Renoir's *Boudu sauvé des eaux*, and King Vidor wanted to take him off to Hollywood and make a star of him.

Instead Becker stayed on to be assistant to Renoir and Renoir's example undoubtedly helped shape his own appreciation of character, of milieu, of the interaction of groups. Even trifles like a comedy vehicle of Fernandel, *Ali Baba*, have their own style; and films that look like trifles - *Fabulous*, set in a Parisian fashion house, or *Rue de l'Éstrapade* - often intimate unsuspected depths. *Rue de l'Éstrapade* was the third and least successful of the marital comedies by which Becker is today best remembered.

The NFT season is also a chance to experience again Becker's uniquely evocative period reconstructions, whether the belle époque of *Les Aventures de Arsène Lupin*, the world of the Apaches and their women in *Casque d'Or*, or the eve of the twenties in *Montparnasse 19* or Becker's own contemporary France in *Rehedevois de Juliette*. Not to be missed, above all, is Becker's last film, *Le Trou*, the story of an attempted prison break which is a virtuoso exercise in suspense, created within unities of time and place.

David Robinson

Television

Norman Mailer at Sixty (BBC 2) has been compared to Mount Rushmore, but really he looks more like Fred Flintstone. He is the primeval innocent, aggrieved when the rocks are thrown at him but strong enough to throw them straight back. Last night's documentary took as its occasion the publication of his most recent novel *American Past*, which was described as a "magnum opus of old Egypt", since it seemed to consist entirely of sodomy, violence, orgies and gang rape it might just as well have been a magnum opus of contemporary New York.

With his combination of naivety and self-projection, vulnerability and combativeness, Mailer himself is very much part of his own culture. There he was, on a bulletin board announcing coming attractions, alongside *Bodyline*, *Dances of the Gods*, *Bodyline*, *Dances of the Gods*, *Bodyline*, *Dances of the Gods*. Some writers work steadily inward, like wireworms of the spirit, but Mailer keeps on moving outward, engulfing great quantities of American life and then spitting them out with affectionate distaste. Frank Delaney, who interviewed him for the programme, has the ability to ask easy questions which are in fact hard to answer; as a result, although this was a "celebratory" study of the man, it was somewhat more sceptical about the writer.

In *Nobody Mind the Rain*... Impressions of Coronation Day (BBC 2), those of us not versed in Coronation lore discovered that the Queen herself was responsible for the presence of television cameras in Westminster Abbey, the Prime Minister and Cabinet having first rejected the idea. She was truly the child of our age - or, risking paradox, her age.

So was this programme itself, since it devoted a great deal of attention to the role of modern communications in the Great Event. As the commentator said, in the anodyne terms usually reserved for travelogues in the cinema, "It was television's day." Extra transmitters were erected to reach previously inaccessible parts of the country, facilities were arranged to broadcast pictures across the Channel, and advertisements on how to "Build Your Own Television" appeared in the press. Twenty million people watched the ceremony, and this blessed union of religion, staidness and the BBC proved once again that the great strength of historical rituals of this kind is that they survive by assimilation.

Peter Ackroyd

Concert

BBC SO/Ashkenazy Festival Hall

If the cancellation, due to Giulini's illness, of the Los Angeles Philharmonic concerts was something of a disappointment, then their replacement, if Wednesday's first Brahms Festival concert was anything to go by, is certainly not.

At the start of a three-day session of Brahms concertos, and chamber-music marathons, Gidon Kremer gave a performance of the Violin Concerto that ought to make history. The BBC Symphony Orchestra under Vladimir Ashkenazy had put its cards on the table in a forcefully driven yet generously lyrical *Tragic Overture*; and a similar balance of steel impetus, bold assertion and lyrical ease characterized the concerto.

This was the bodywork against which Mr Kremer played out a reading of such expressive detail and breadth that, by the end of the first

Hilary Finch

Dance

The Seasons Coliseum

The first new production of Festival Ballet's London season was given on Wednesday night: Glazunov's *The Seasons* in a production by Ronald Hynd that was first shown by the Houston Ballet in 1980. The music is glorious stuff for dancing, a cascade of rich melodies in sumptuous, sugary orchestrations, as sinfully irresistible as the best preludes.

I find it surprising that Hynd and his designer, Peter Docherty, thought this score suited to anything other than tutus and the most splendid of pure classic display, such as Ashton provided when he used some of the tunes in *Birthday Offering*. Instead, they have gone for all over tights and choreography

that is often all over the floor, with the dancers sitting, lying or rolling. Perhaps they thought to offset the music's sweetness, instead of exploiting it.

With the orchestra in fair form under Graham Bond, however, Glazunov carries the day, and the public is obviously delighted to see so many and so much of the dancers. The ostensible theme is not taken very seriously, and I imagine it never was, from Petipa's 1900 staging onwards. The idea is simply to have an excuse to bring on one group of dancers after another.

The star of the show, as the Spirit of the Seasons (whatever that may be) is Koen Oniz. A recent recruit from Antwerp, a short, slight young man, he whizzes and zooms round the stage at every break in the succession of other dancers.

These include quite a few of the company's leading members: Patricia Ruanno and Manola Ascensio stalwartly borne around by Jay Jolley and Jonas Kaage as, respectively, Summer and Autumn, with Deborah Weiss and Maurizio Bellezza more playfully representing Spring.

Hynd's principle seems to have been to pile on the effects rather than bother much with subtleties of stylization or structure. When that involves whirling the women like cathe-drines wheels round their partners' shoulders, or parading them as high as the arms will lift, everyone goes to it with energy and enthusiasm, and the same for all the jumping, whirling and balancing in between. You get a lot of steps for your money.

John Percival

Theatre

Thrilling chasms of mood and style

Nightshade Birmingham Rep Studio

A central curtailed recess bathed in purple light and throbbing organ music; is this a crematorium or a variety theatre? For magician-morician John Quinn, it is both. But for all the funeral bric-a-brac, Stewart Parker's dark comedy is a play of great tenderness. The rubicund, middle-aged Quinn (Kenneth Ireland) lost his wife, first by desertion then by death. Playing Miranda to his Prospero is his devilish daughter Delia, always ready to enter the case that he sticks full of swords, and feign a bloody accident to frighten him.

Their family doctor (June Brown), is a dry old bird with an invalid father, making unconventional arrangements for her own approaching death and subsequently sniggering quietly from the coffin as the conventional cosmetic and panegyrics are laid on regardless. Miss Brown's superb unsmiling wit is matched by Deborah Norton as Delia's elegantly frustrated headmistress.

But Delia herself, hyper-perceptive to the point of otherworldliness adds the spiritual dimension to the story. Crooked-haired and genuine, Madeline Church fills that impossible demand, though her quicksilver movements go over the top at times.

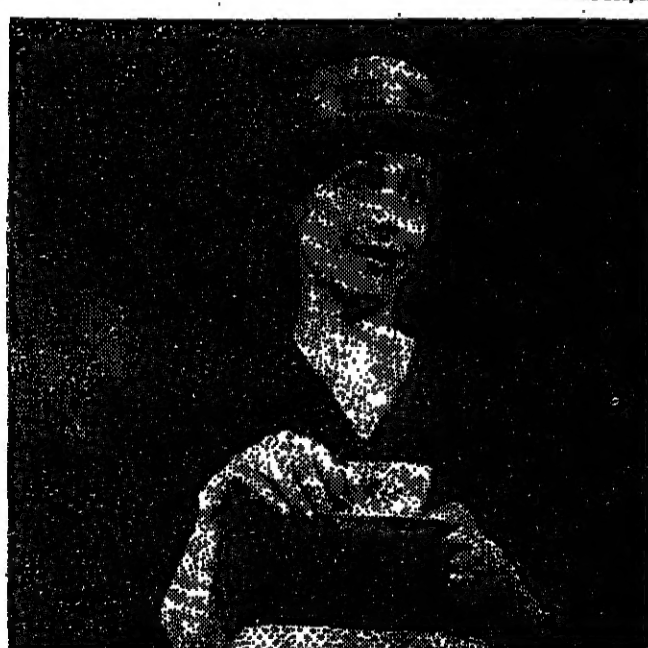
She is haunted by two tales, *The Sleeping Beauty* and *Jacob's*

Wrestling Match with the Angel, whose relevance to her father's marriage, and the two father-daughter relationships in the play, gradually becomes apparent. In this house devoted to death, a lifetime's frustrating struggles appear as a living death that mocks any date on a coffin.

Sometimes the play seems to lose its way, but strokes of invention are usually round the corner. "Nothing special. My father was groping my headmistress and I was watching from a coffin", Delia explains, and the same itch dominates her

father's new assistant, a physics graduate progressing from the Law of Falling Bodies to laying them out, dead and alive. "You're dismissed", the headmistress says after sexual intercourse. "I thought you just were", comes the punning reply. Kenny Ireland, taking over the lead at short notice, sails expertly through the satirical humour, pathos and conjuring tricks alike. And Peter Farago's production walks the tightrope over the play's thrilling chasms of mood and style.

Anthony Masters



Elizabeth MacLennan, "gently implacable"

Vertical take-off

Men Should Weep Royal, Stratford East

When a long-neglected play from the old Unity Theatre repertory is rediscovered in the author's lifetime, revived by a director of international reputation, and swept into London on a tide of Scottish acclaim, it is hard to present it as anything other than a deserving cause.

But as soon as you start dwelling on Ena Lamont Stewart's affinity with O'Casey, and saluting her study of Glaswegian tenement life in the 1930s for its humane testimony and grim relevance to modern Britain, the response is to be one of dutiful assent followed by a stampede for the exit. I do not know how *Men Should Weep* appeared to its original 1947 audiences. But its success in Giles Havergal's 7.84 company production is that it departs totally from all the old conventions of the Socialist stage. Here we have Maggie, worn out with her scrubbing job and looking after seven children and an unemployed husband, but still unsoured and full of love for them all. She is a splendid, wholly credible woman; but it would be an insult to call her an heroic working-class matriarch.

Then there is the rest of the family: the runaway daughter, the disastrously married son, the parasitic granny, and the swaggingly unmanly head of the household. You can like and dislike all of them in different ways; but so far as the play is concerned, they are given no alibi for their mistakes and cruelties. It is for the audience to draw the wider social lesson.

There are some fierce domestic rows and one near-fatal stabbing; but what is most remarkable about the piece is its

wealth of really funny lines, and the fact that it avoids all censoriousness towards a group of characters who are incessantly judging each other.

If ever there were a claustrophobic box set around them, no trace of it survives in the free air of this production. On Geoff Rose's stage, the Morrisons occupy a ramshackle downstage area, backed by a grimy concrete skyline haunted by spying neighbours, snogging couples, and late-night rowdies; while members of the family double as a chorus of gossips and other figures from the outside.

With the exception of one small boy, age is presented entirely through acting, with the handsome young Jo Cameron Brown emitting bird-like squawks as the senile granny, clamping boneless gums on any passing sweet and clasping her pension book in palsied talons. The aim, superbly achieved, is to elicit emotional intensity, and divert attention from these people as individuals to the conditions in which they are compelled to live. And instead of the plot of naturalistic narrative there are side-lit tableaux, explosions of brilliantly lit energy, bold groupings (as where all the women line up down-stage for cake-nibbling courtship confessions), and moments of vertical take-off into lurid violence and volcanic farce.

In short, Mr Havergal has effected a triumphant marriage between the allegedly decadent style of the Citizens' Theatre and the wholesome virtues of the old Labour stage. Acknowledging that the sharpest memory is of the richly eloquent Glasgow dialogue, and of Elizabeth MacLennan's gently implacable central performance.

Irving Wardle



TAVERNER

Peter Maxwell Davies

Conductor: Edward Downes

"To be recommended equally to those who love opera and to those who never set foot in the opera house. It could dispel a great many misconceptions about opera as a dead art form." *Illustrated London News*

Producer: Michael Gelfo, Designer: Ralph Kohli

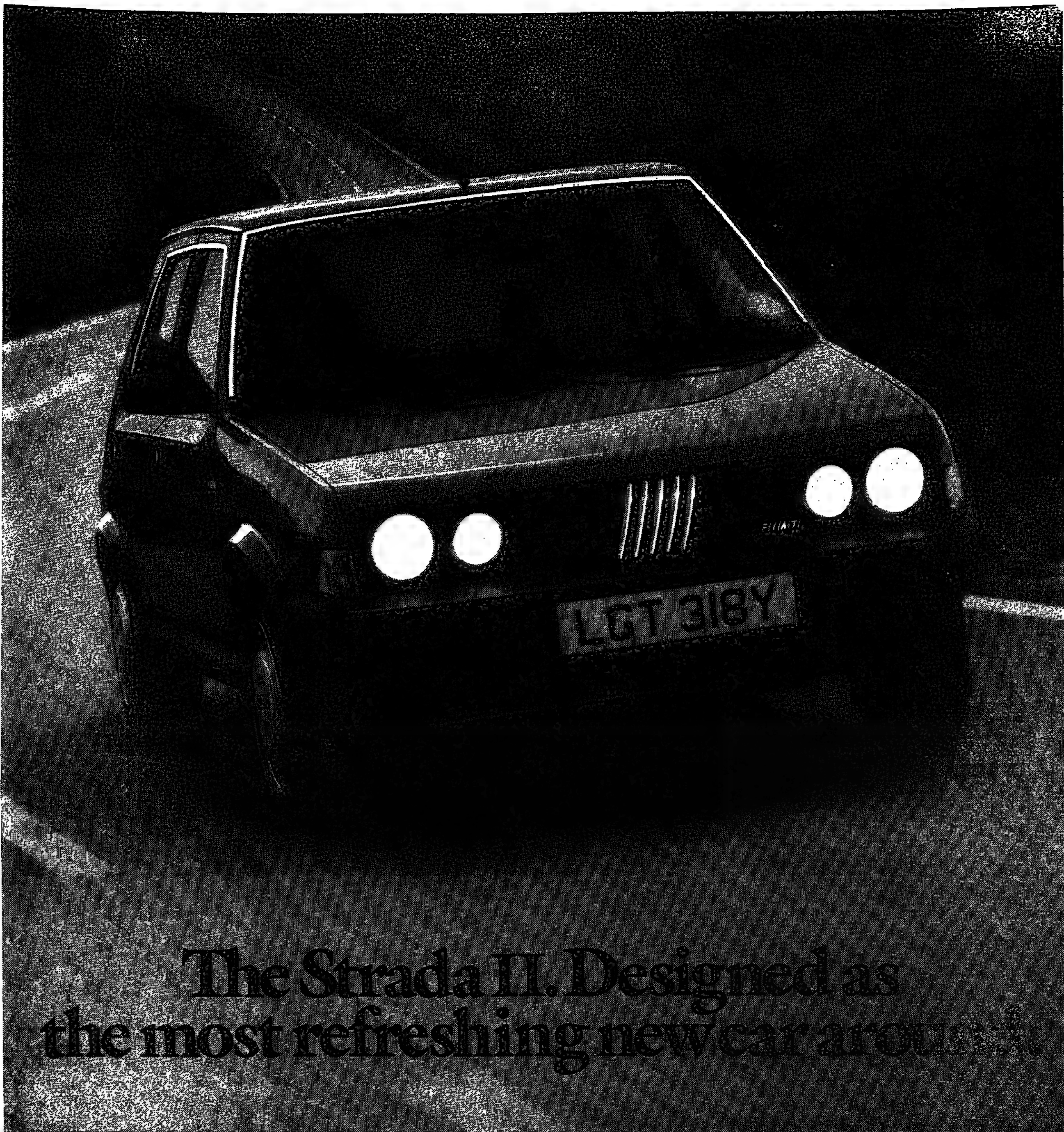
Cast includes: Sarah Walker, James Bowman, John Dewar, Raymond Herrick, Alan Oke, John Tomlinson, Roger Ufford

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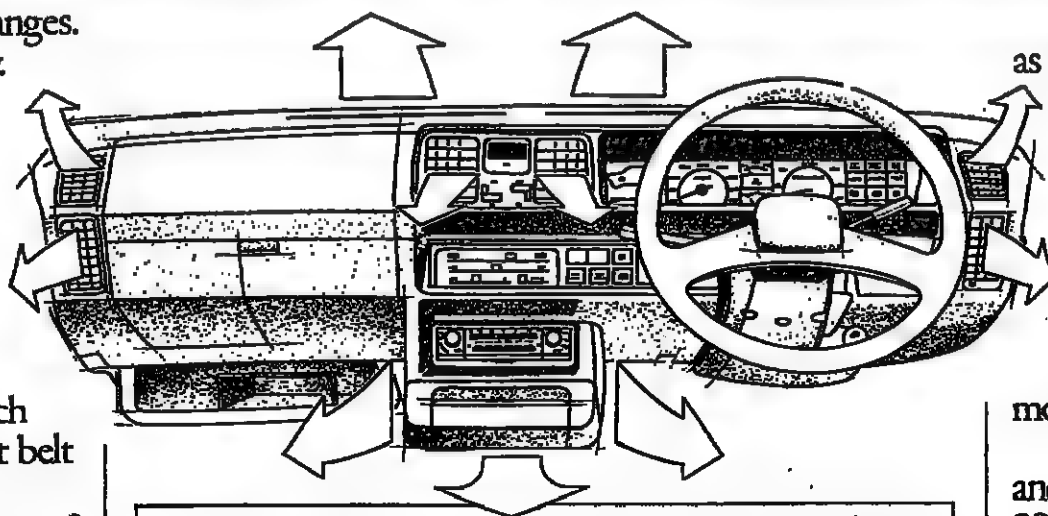
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A chop off the old block



MODERN TIMES

A short back and sideways look at the British way of life

fashion through the healing, timeless properties of chlorine and a municipal towel. You may think that I... perhaps not quite so much off the back. Oh, you've done it. Fine.

Karen here tells me she has spent four years training for this. I am flattered of course, but a voice inside tells me that pilots spend just as long learning to fly, and VC10s still crash. Karen is the one in italics: "Ooo, it's in terrible condition."

"Sorry."

"When did you last have it done?"

"Pass."

"Mmmm"

My mother used to cut my father's hair, and I use the word advisedly, for he had but one. Most of the time she was pretty adroit, although there was one terrible occasion when she went for the hair and missed. There was a click of scissors and a piece of ear flew like a finger nail into the corner of the room.

I understand that hair grows six feet a day. It would be a grand thing - though not for the trade, I admit - if all this push could concentrate itself in a single strand.

But we are imperfect - Karen's not too brilliant either. Suddenly I am looking terribly lopsided. A stroke perhaps. This place Snippets used to be a butcher's and I suppose some of the cutting finesse must have imbued itself into the... ouch. No, I'm sorry, but that actually hurt.

When I was a boy it was all so simple. Candy-striped spirals twirled on the corner of every parade, and for half a crown you could come out looking like Dennis Compton. Whatever could have happened to those sound and basic practitioners when the sixties started swinging (they have a lot to answer for) and long hair demanded its new technologists? Did they all go off to Eastbourne and Tunbridge Wells, where the demand for short back and sides was still brisk? I think we should be told.

There are those who say that the hairdresser's function has an interface with that of the analyst; that there is some vital nerve linking the scalp with the soul; that the massaging of the one unlocks the secrets of the other. I must be deficient here for I would not sooner lodge my intimacies with Karen than I would have my children kennelled for the holidays. My problem entirely, I know, for the air is crackling with talk of infidelity, real or imagined.

The woman on my right is being cramped into some bizarre confection. She looks like the planning stage for a main dish, with her hair packed into a million twists of silver foil. It must be costing her. Surely she is not walking home in this state as she would be a must for any old flash of lightning. Her Kenny has been playing around. He came home the other night with long scratches down his back and love bites glowing in the soft of his shoulder (although he was so drunk that he tried to pass these off as symptoms of Dutch Elm disease). Now she is taking revenge on him, and her first step is to punish him visually. It could backfire dreadfully.

I shall be resolute. I shall not fire off some inane line like "My wife doesn't understand me" for the sake of conformity. Actually it is true: she doesn't understand me, any more than I do. Who but a thoroughgoing prude would blame £8.00 (no, I am not claiming it on expenses) for this sort of... I didn't know my ears were that shape.

Why am I the only bloke here? Don't answer that. These unisex places reek of the mark-up rationale; a woman's hair costs more to do than a man's, but, in the hold egalitarianism of the salon, disparities should be kept to a minimum. Hence the eight quid. Now if I hadn't decided years ago not to look like Liberace I might yet put them through their paces.

And another thing. What happened to the quiff? I have a friend called Cottle who is a lonely conversationist in the field, but then he is very short and needs the inches. He has developed his own fish-based agent with which to fix his naturally limp forelock. Every morning he scoops it and sculpts it endlessly, and as he walks to the station it rears above him like a Malibu roller. But it has the durability of a brandy snap, and the first gust of following wind reduces it to a glistening splatter across his face.

Brush strokes on the neck tell me the job is done. A flash of the profile in the hand mirror tells me I am perhaps not here at all, but sewing mail bags in Crown accommodation, for my old hedge of hair is short, sheared and shed. I am befuddled.

At the door, who should I pass on his way in but Cottle, finally delivering himself to the professionals. Don't do it, Cottle. Don't be a fool, man. But he does not recognize me. There is hope for me yet. Thank you Karen.

Alan Franks



ROBIN SACHS
actor, married to Sian Phillips

"I tend to be cast in upper class parts - Old Etonian, RAF or as I was in *Brideshead*. I don't even have to show David a photograph or discuss the character with him - he just knows what to do. Mine isn't the easiest hair - it curls when it's long, frizzes in the rain. It takes half an hour to cut and finger dry, or I go under the infra-red lamp. David's a

strong person without being heavily flamboyant - we joke a lot, find out what the other is doing, talk quite a bit about clothes: in jackets and suits we have similar tastes.... David understands that it's as important for a man as for a woman to have his hair and head looking good."

DAVID BEDI
of Ricci Burns

"Though he finds it difficult, he's actually got very nice hair to work with - a natural curl, nice movement. The wonderful thing about Robin is that he is a great communicator and he's on the ball. He likes gardens, goes to the gym, takes an interest in clothes and though age is a barrier only if you have absolutely nothing in common it's nice that we are of a similar age. He's always cheerful, happy, though sometimes he's a bit tense. You can tell by the scalp, you know. All scalps tighten with tension (though the average housewife's is looser) and it's very important for men, who are more prone to hair loss. Tension and tight follicles kill hair. In the series before last Robin was very tense and I gave him a number of exercises to relieve this... If I haven't seen him for a while a built-in alarm clock tells me he's due - I'd never ring though. That would be unethical."



ZANE GRIFF
singer/actor

"Kevin usually comes to me. At the moment I'm quite blond, long on top, cut into the structure underneath in a sort of art deco way. It falls differently on both sides from the crown and I have a sort of cow's lick on one side - Kevin gets the balance right. In the past five years it's changed about 15 times - it used to be very long, when I hid behind my hair. Kevin persuaded me I didn't need to - I was really frightened of going shorter but he nursed me through it. He's not like some hairdressers who cut for the sake of it - if it only needs a couple of clips he'll fix it. He's got style - you can see it in his person. I'd follow him to the outskirts of London. I've went to Manchester I'd grow it long again."

KEVIN THORP
ex-Michael John, now freelance

"For someone like Zane it's very important that his hair should interpret his whole personality, his music, how he feels. It's basically very thick, strong and he used to wear it too long. Over the years he's been mauve, blond, jet black (a colour change takes about two hours) - very very short and long and curly. It changes according to his mood - what I.L.P. he's doing, what film he's making - and I understand that. He's very receptive to different approaches and he trusts me completely. We talk about it a lot. When he gets fed up, I say look Zane, you should change your looks. Getting it right matters to him - and to me. Doing his hair is interesting; he's always into something new."



STEPHEN KOMLOSY
Finance, married to Parti Boulez

"Male or female is irrelevant. Angelina has a tremendous reputation in men's hairdressing. I think it's ten years now it took about three to teach her how to do it - I used to have a parting. Angelina kept grumbling, then my wife. They changed, that between them... A good hairdresser's rather like a good sailor - they persuade you gently. I try to go at lunchtime so as not to waste time. I have a sandwich and read. Angelina talks. She fancies herself as a bit of a mystic - she rabbits away but has the uncanny habit of being right."

ANGELINA BOSCO
in charge of the men's salon at Leonard's

"He's got lovely hair - blond and a lot of it - in fact he's a lovely person, looks after himself, jogs, swims and he's a vegetarian. But not vain. Did you know he's a Hungarian aristocrat? He didn't tell me, I had to dig it out. He's very quick, very pale in hair, smart in style - nice jewelry, a good watch, case, clothes, you know what I mean. He's a very good client - always on time and that does help. A gentle person. I've never seen him lose his temper. We never saw eye to eye on his parting - it was awful."

Judy Froshang

ALEX TELFORD
Silversmith, lecturer at Sir John Cass College

"He came up to me in a pub and said 'Did you know your hair's a real mess?' Previously I had only found good hairdressers in France. Here I always came out with a permanent press V or looking like Joan of Arc. Francis is like a good doctor - he has amazing patience, knows exactly what to do with my hair without me saying a word. (With most you can't look in the mirror for days.) And I don't have to talk about football or TV, like some of those little men's places where you feel you have to buy a packet of contraceptives. I'd follow him anywhere but Australia, where he comes from, or America where he's threatened to go to! A real find - and friend."

TONY CASH
producer/director of programmes for the South Bank Show

"I used to go to Sweeney's - basically a man's hairdresser - then my wife pointed out that Annie Russell did men too. I was a little disconcerted the first time to find I was the only man there, that's all. Mario's a good hairdresser and the King's Road is very convenient. I book an early appointment - it takes 25 minutes in and out on the way to work. I don't attach much importance to hair really - mine's rather greasy, like an adolescent without the Brylcreem - and I'm receding slightly at the front... Mario talks about everything under the sun."

MARIO ANTONELLI
of Annie Russell

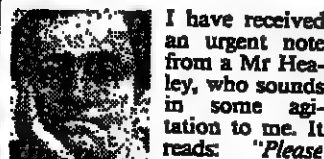
"In the early 1960s men didn't come into salons but all that changed. I do Tony, his wife and their children. Tony's hair is straight, fine - and he has a tricky hair line. In the old days you'd have taken clippers to it. He's quite conventional, but certainly not 'short back and sides'. A nice guy, highly intelligent, warm, with no frontiers, no snobbery. He reads the paper has a cup of coffee and we talk - about television, cable, the new technology, music politics. A male hairdresser has a different relationship with a male client, more like schoolboys, pals perhaps."

FRANCIS BATES
of Capelli

"If you let his hair go he would look just like Old English sheepdog. In fact his dogs are very similar. Actually he has got wonderful hair - thick and wiry, sort of silver grey with a black streak, but it does need careful cutting. They used to scissor cut it which made it stick out like a carnation. I'd seen him about for years and I used to think why doesn't that guy do something with himself? If only I could get my hands on his hair."

Talking out the Labour Party

MOREOVER... Miles Kingston



I have received an urgent note from a Mr Henry, who sounds in some agitation to me. It reads: "Please print the following confidential document in your influential column. It may not mean much to you, but it could swing the election for us. I have no idea what this means, but as I am short of a subject today, I might as well do what he asks. It seems to be an extract from a debate in the House of Lords yesterday."

The House of Lords yesterday heard the second reading of the Abolition of the Labour Party Bill.

Lord Catchpenny said that this was a bill generated in the House of Lords itself. It was a simple bill, designed merely to abolish the Labour Party, which was also known as Labour Party Ltd under the Companies Act and as the Socialist Party under the Historic Monuments Act.

The House had nothing particular against the Labour Party as such - some of his best friends had been in Labour administrations, usually as Prime Minister - but it had threatened to abolish the House of Lords. He therefore felt it a good idea for them to abolish Labour first, in a pre-emptive strike.

Lord Mungo: How do you spell that?

Lord Treadmill said he didn't see what this had to do with the Others and Ferrets Enabling Bill. He had travelled all the way from Northumberland to say his piece about blood sports and he didn't want to waste time on the Labour Party.

Lord Catchpenny: I believe, my Lord, the Others and Ferrets Bill is tomorrow.

Lord Ampersand advised Lord Treadmill to stick around for the Labour Party Bill and he would see as much blood sports as he liked. It could develop into quite a bruishash.

Lord Mungo: How do you spell that?

Lord Witgap said he had been a member of the Labour Party for 50 years. He had known what poverty was like. Witgap Tower, the stately home in which he grew up, had no running water or heating in any of its 45 rooms and they had only had an outside lavatory, built by Robert Adam in a most inconvenient place.

Lord Adidas: I cannot see what harm the Labour Party has done anyone.

Lord Ampersand said that Lord Adidas was a funny kind of name.

Lord Adidas: I changed it at the suggestion of my sponsors. Let me repeat: I cannot see what harm the Labour Party has done.

Lord Catchpenny explained that the general feeling was that the Labour Party was an elitist body, open only to people who had been to certain kinds of schools, from certain kinds of background, and it had enshrined an out-of-date principle of hereditary primogeniture.

Lord Mungo: How do you spell that?

Lord Catchpenny: For instance, the left-wing had been run by the Foot family for generations. And he believed that Tony Benn had a daughter called Hilary who was standing for Felling North.

Lord Spratz said that they were

stark raving loony to abolish the Labour Party. It was a prime tourist attraction. People flocked from all over the world to see what the Labour Party stood for - black puddings, Barnsley Public Library, Keats Waterhouse, sunset over Toxeth, bacon butties and the statue of Melvyn Bragg in Pontefract.

Lord Mungo: How do you spell that?

Lord Catchpenny said there

were certain difficulties involved, as the Labour Party was protected under the Historic Monuments Act. However, things bearing a preservation order had often disappeared overnight - more often than other things, in fact - and he saw no reason why the Labour Party should not go the same way. He would personally look into it, as he knew a man who was in the demolition line of business and did things strictly for cash.

(The Abolition of the Labour Party Bill was given a second reading, 198-32.)

CONCISE CROSSWORD (No 74)

- ACROSS
1. Frenzied (7)
 2. Respond (5)
 3. Regret (3)
 4. Deposition (7)
 5. Scottish landowner (5)
 6. And aircraft fire (4)
 7. Taster (7)
 8. Canterbury jurisdiction (13)
 9. Precisely (7)
 10. Implanted (4)
 11. Cake coating (9)
 12. Fast saline (7)
 13. Expression of surprise (3)
 14. Great fear (5)
 15. Tufts of threads (7)

- DOWN
1. Closed hand (4)
 2. Circular reef (5)
 3. Appreciative prayer (8,12,3)
 4. Moved quietly (5)
 5. Piousness (13)
 6. Pilot (7)
 7. Sea run (4,4)
 8. Uncommon specimen (4,4)
 9. Goblet (7)
 10. Pleasure boat (5)
 11. Twisted twigs (5)
 12. In this manner (4)

SOLUTION TO No 73

ACROSS: 1 Repeat 5 Reject 8 Hue 9 Collar 10 Fondle 11 Gene 12 Narrator 13 Elated 15 Infer 17 Labourer 20 Gybe 22 Flated 23 Exotic 24 Del 25 Sticky 26 Ignite
DOWN: 2 Erode 3 Allment 4 Throned 5 Refer 6 Junta 7 Callous 14 Leslet 15 Israeli 16 Foghorn 18 Optic 19 Ruddy 21 Built
(Solution to No. 74 on Monday)
Recommended dictionary is the New Collins Concise



سكزا من الاربعين

FRIDAY PAGE

MEDICAL BRIEFING

Danger in the sunshine

The wettest spring on record will encourage holiday makers to seek the sun. They should beware, recent work has shown that the complications from blistering and burning are more far-reaching than suffering the agony of lying on a hotel bed with a badly burnt back and chest.

The greatest danger does not seem to be to outdoor workers, but to office workers and others who expose their palid skin only once a year and are therefore at risk of getting burnt, whether to the hot Mediterranean sun or the less fierce heat of the occasional sunny day on the Moray firth.

There is evidence that sunburning increases the chance of developing a cancerous mole (melanoma) for two reasons. It alters the body's general immune system, demonstrated by the fact that moles can turn malignant after severe burning even when occurring on the most intimate areas and therefore protected from direct sun by even the briefest of clothes. When the sun's rays do scorch the skin, actual damage to the mole may also precipitate similar changes.

People who are constantly exposed to the sun develop a different type of skin change, a solar keratosis, a rough scaly patch often seen on the backs of the hands and faces of farm workers, sailors and empire traders. These patches may be treated with Euflex cream (5-Fluorouracil) or by freezing when still small, before they have given rise to trouble. If left, a squamous cell carcinoma, a skin cancer of low malignancy, may develop; this would then have to be removed surgically or treated with radiotherapy.

The bends

Priests and plumbers have something in common, both are repetitive: kneelers: one before the altar and the other behind the pipes.

Dr Thomas Bracken describes in the New England Journal of Medicine the case of a 43-year-old priest who has suffered chronic damage to the outer cartilage of his knee joint by kneeling: as a result he had pain, swelling and locking in the joint. Dr Bracken suggests that there might be similar cases: certainly a fennel plumber had identical signs and symptoms: this weekend. Further, more he denied that he took violent exercise, or had ever knowingly twisted his knee, and volunteered the fact that the trouble started after a job which required more repetitive kneeling than usual.

Joint-wear

The affecting picture of an elderly vicer hobbles to the pills is as much part of an election as photographs of lambs are to spring. It is not difficult for the press to find a subject, for statistics independently quoted by the Arthritis and Rheumatism Council, and by Professor Nicholas Bellamy and Professor Watson Buchanan of Ontario, in the month's Update, suggest that over one million people in Britain have rheumatoid arthritis and another five million osteoarthritis. Rheumatoid is twice as common in women as in men; osteoarthritis, often imprecisely defined as a wearing out of the joints, is equally divided between the sexes.

Circumstances have been unkind to the council this year, Mr Robin Leigh Pemberton, its chairman, had to resign when he became Governor of the Bank of England, and its National Arthritis Week, designed to publicize the advances in diagnosis and treatment made possible by research, has coincided with the general election.

Dr Colin Barnes, acting chairman, told The Times that in 1982, the council distributed over £3m to 170 different research projects, as well as subsidizing undergraduate and postgraduate education; more than one third of the money had been collected by supporters in its 900 branches.

Despite the onslaught of the research workers, many aspects of rheumatoid arthritis remain unexplained.

The X factor

Each edition of Debrett's contains a melancholy list of peerages and baronies which have recently become extinct for want of a male heir. But the ability to choose the sex of a child by separating the sperms carrying the Y male-determining chromosome from the X female-bearing one has a medical importance far greater than that of satisfying a peer's longing for perpetuation.

The Japanese claim that they have found an electrical means of dividing the two types of sperm so that it is possible to produce a seminal specimen containing girl-bearing sperms only. This will give hope to women who, although healthy, are carriers of the so-called X-linked diseases which may affect the male children they bear.

It is only possible now to avoid this hazard by aborting all male foetuses: the Japanese advance if confirmed would herald an era of selective conception rather than selective abortion.

Dr Thomas Stuttford
Medical Correspondent



Wendy Hollis

Someone old, someone new

Today's report, *Marriage - and the Standing Committee's Task*, has a panicky air to it, like an ailing department store hastily arranging a mid-season sale to attract custom.

The report follows a decision by the General Synod of the Church of England to allow, in certain circumstances, divorced people to remarry in church and its request that the Synod's Standing Committee look into the possibilities of this.

Goodness knows, the present situation is far from satisfactory. As things stand, single persons, no matter how casual their connexion with their church, are entitled to be wedded in it, while divorced persons, no matter how devoted churchgoers they may be, are not. How unfair on the divorced man or woman who wishes to take as his second wife a spiritually inclined spinster. They may not marry in church, although their subsequent children may be baptized there. Yet although the Standing Committee would like such people to have the benefit of a church wedding, it certainly doesn't intend to treat them like first timers. First it would have them go through some intensely probing interviews before the diocesan bishop decides whether to allow their marriage to be solemnized.

The church would then publicly release them from their previous marriage vows - a rather embarrassing and certainly superfluous gesture, since the state has already done that. Some members of the committee would like to see a further indignity: a public statement to the effect that the marriage about to take place is a "second" one. I find it slightly disturbing that

The Church of England decision to allow divorcees to remarry in church in certain circumstances presents a number of embarrassments to the devout. Penny Perriek examines the trend that has led up to the decision

throughout this report "second" when referring to marriage, is always placed in quotes, making it sound like something that isn't real, like fake fur or leatherette. Such proposals, I feel, present an unattractive package for people who have already gone through the trauma of a divorce. They will also, in that nervy period before a wedding-day serve to remind everyone concerned of past failures, at the very time when it is helpful to be able to concentrate on future happiness.

All but the most determined will probably think that the briskness of a register office ceremony is preferable to an intrusive inspection into one's past life. And this is a shame because the Church of England badly needs more weddings. Throughout most of the 1970s, all over the industrialized world, the marriage rate has been dropping, while the cohabitation rate has been rising. People have simply been marrying later, to which may explain why the number of first marriages taking place in the Church of England has dropped sharply from 41 per cent of all first marriages in 1970 to 32 per cent in 1979. An 18-year-old bride might need veils, bouquets, bridesmaids and an authorized marriage service to make the day complete but a 27-year-old woman who has been living with her new husband for several years might rather spend the money on new carpeting.

The economic recession plus the fact that register offices now go in for floral arrangements and a festive atmosphere have also contributed to the decline in church weddings. It is clear that unless the church can solemnize second or even "second" marriages, it might find itself participating in fewer and fewer marriages as the years go by.

Later marriages have not, sadly, meant longer marriages. The rise in cohabitation and the trend towards later marriage has not coincided with a declining

divorce rate: between 1970 and 1979, this more than doubled in England and Wales, as did the number of remarriages. Some of my best friends are part of these statistics. They married for the first time as dreamy-eyed flower children, only growing up when the sombre 1970s found them divorced and, often, sole financial support of their children. One of these women said that she feels it was her second wedding which was the real one, the one that deserved to be solemnized, since it was undertaken in utter seriousness, after years of discussion.

"There was no question of a church wedding," she said, "so we made it as grand an occasion as possible by inviting both our large families to the register office. My mother, bless her, showed solidarity by wearing an amazing mother-of-the-bride outfit which was pure Barbara Cartland. During the years between my two marriages, I'd felt greatly sustained by going regularly to church and I should have liked the chance of repeating the marriage vows."

"I certainly approve of the decision to allow church weddings for divorced people and even sympathize with some of the hurdles the church may put in their way. I think it's the church's job to see that people don't take the matter lightly. I wouldn't like to see irresponsible people who drift in and out of marriage being given a second and then a third chance to walk down the aisle. One snag is that with weddings, if something can go wrong it will, and there could be a ghastly muddle over getting the bishop's permission and then the public statement and what-have-you added to the general confusion."

Another friend, about to marry for the second time in August, said that she would like a religious ceremony but would resent having to undergo the questioning and to be treated

Following the General Synod's decision in 1981 that there were circumstances in which a divorced person might marry in church during the lifetime of a former partner, the Standing Committee reports today on proposed procedures to allow such church marriage, subject to the following provisions:

Such a procedure must be pastorally conceived and operated in the highest pastoral interests of the couple, subject to the requirements of the Church's teaching.

Full and sensitive inquiry into each case should be undertaken by the incumbent, who would complete an application form for submission to the bishop and arrange for the parties to sign a simple declaration. The bishop would seek advice from a multi-diocesan panel.

The bishop, in affirming, would include a statement dispensing the person(s) concerned from the obligation to keep marriage vows previously made.

The Standing Committee is evenly divided on whether some form of public statement (of the fact that one of the parties has been divorced and has a former partner still living and that the bishop's special permission has been granted) should be mandatory.

different from someone marrying for the first time: "It reminds me of those schools where they make children getting free dinners stand in a separate queue. In a way, I find the present system more logical. The church, by not allowing second marriages to be solemnized, is emphasizing that marriage is, ideally, something you do only once, so, unless your partner dies, you're only allowed one shot at it. I'm quite a religious woman, but if I were allowed to marry in church again, I might get the feeling that I was somehow cheating. Perhaps a register office is more suitable - we can always go to church afterwards. On the other hand, you could say that the Church of England should be prepared to marry anyone who wants a church ceremony. Someone said that a second marriage was a triumph of hope over experience and there's something rather spiritually uplifting about that sentiment which maybe the church should encourage."

What MPs think of women

HOW MPs RESPONDED TO THE QUESTIONNAIRE

Labour: 44 per cent (105). Conservative: 24 per cent (80). SDP/Liberal: 52 per cent (22). Other: 19 per cent (4). (One Ulster Unionist, one Scottish nationalist, two Field Cynna. Nine replied anonymously.)

It is unkind to make trouble between husband and wife, but I feel that Lady Howe, as a former deputy chairman of the Equal Opportunities Commission, really should know this about Sir Geoffrey. Last February, when asked to define his attitude towards women by filling in a ten-point questionnaire sent to him by Carol Sarler, the editor of *Honey* magazine, he declined. "It is not his practice," Sir Geoffrey's private secretary wrote to Miss Sarler. "To complete documents of utter stupidity - quite rightly."

Jill Craigie, wife of Michael Foot, is just as interested in women's issues as Lady Howe and need not, on this occasion at least, feel embarrassed by her husband. Mr Foot filled in the questionnaire with great diligence, extending each "yes" and "no" with a robust comment, as, for example: "It is better for a child to come home to a mother who feels happy with her day's work, than one who feels angry because she has had no choice but to stay at home all day". Albert Booth, the former Labour Cabinet Minister who, Jill Craigie described recently as "an unrecognized feminist", filled in his questionnaire most sympathetically, so that's all right.

Among the 220 Members of Parliament (out of a total of 635) who responded, were David Steel and Shirley Williams. Mrs Thatcher said she didn't have time to fill in her questionnaire, but sent round one of her old speeches instead. The three male members of the Gang of Four, Jenkins, Owen and Rodgers, spoilt the Alliance's record - a 52 per cent response by not replying. In fact, in spite of the SDP being the only party which officially insists on including women on selection shortlists, the Liberal MPs seemed more mindful of women's interest.

"I find it remarkable that Mrs T's proposals for the family include the disgraceful suggestion that women should find their self-expression at the kitchen sink rather than at work," wrote David Steel. And on the subject of sexual harassment, David Alton answered: "I would welcome a change in the general attitudes towards women in my own particular work place - the Houses of Parliament".

The newly-reassembled House of Commons will surely be a less turbulent place without the presence

of Andy McMahon, the Labour MP who, shortly after posting back his questionnaire, failed to be reselected for Glasgow, Govan. "I would be willing to support medical amputation for man who had been found guilty of rape", thundered Mr McMahon at one point. Demonstrating his lack of bias between the sexes, his view on sexual harassment was that "it is most unfortunate that certain females enjoy this, although I can see no action that will prevent the pinching and groping that females of all ages accept and enjoy, even boast about". Thank goodness for that Heaven help us if Mr McMahon could visualize something that would cure us of our boastful ways.

Just as interesting as the politicians' view is the fact that the July issue of *Honey* devotes seven whole pages to analysing them, and example of the more serious approach this "teenage" magazine has taken since Carol Sarler, a single parent and mother of daughter aged nine, took over as editor three years ago. Now the average *Honey* reader is over 20 and is, Carol Sarler thinks, growing more politically aware.

"Young women are growing up in an era that has no precedents," she said. "They have to work things out for themselves because their mums can't really help. These women support each other and expect their magazine's support too. You can go into any pub and hear twenty-two-year-old women ranting on about things. It's the young woman who are involved in Greenham Common and who start up rape crisis centres, all of which is undoubtedly a result of the feminist movement which has left no woman's life untouched, even if all it means to a housewife in Southorpe is that she asks her husband to give her a hand with the washing up."

She chose the ten questions on equal opportunities, disarmament, education, rape and violence,

abortion, money matters, positive discrimination, child care, work opportunities and sexual harassment because she thought that these were the areas which were most going to affect women aged between 20 and 30 - "a lot of noise is made about women's issues, but not the sort of noise that leads to action". Yet even when MPs were put on the spot by her survey, if they thought there were valid reasons for treating men and women differently in matters of social security and tax, some of them took the opportunity to discuss how unfair the present arrangements are to men.

What emerges from the survey is that while a majority of all the MPs who answered its questions seem keen to boost professional training for women, would like a fairer taxation system and support a married woman's right to work, when it comes to giving help and support in difficult times the Labour Party is clearly out in front.

Its MPs were more inclined than the others to extend state funding for rape crisis centres, prevent any restriction of the current abortion laws and provide more child care facilities.

This has led to Carol Sarler to the conclusion that: "If you are seeking radical reform for women, you won't vote Conservative - they've told us in the survey that they're not going to do anything. Yet a senior female executive at IPC, which publishes *Honey*, who's read the survey is still going to vote for them". And there's the heart of the matter. The Labour MPs presented a picture of women as vulnerable, crisis-prone and hard done by. The Conservatives seemed to think that women could get ahead without any special provision being made - "Ability will find its level and its reward", pronounced one, rather typical, Tory whose comment is backed up by the IPC executive.

Carol Sarler acknowledged that the female voter may be concerned with more than women's issues. "But for some of our readers this may be the first time they've voted, or simply the first time they've had the chance to think things out for themselves. I'd hate to feel we haven't changed someone's mind about something."

Anne Bluston

TALKBACK

Clouded view

From Mrs Doreen Wiltshire, Holly Cottage, Back Road, Falkham, Ipswich.

I refer to the article of Wednesday (May 25) "Living happily ever after", about the Eysencks.

In a paper of the calibre of *The Times*, I object to reading the comment about Sybil Eysenck: "She is a pretty woman with a cloud of long dark hair and the figure of a young girl."

Perhaps we should also have read how Professor Eysenck was a handsome man with a cloud of short greying hair and the figure of a middle-aged man!

Must we put up with such blatant sexism?

House-sense

From Christopher Gay, City Chief Executive, Canterbury City Council, Military Road, Canterbury, Kent.

Diana Patti's article (Friday Page,

May 13) told of the joys and the responsibilities of ownership of an historic building. Her warning to readers was to beware the local authority and its draconian powers.

It was possible, however, to draw a different conclusion from her story - it does not fall so much in love with a beautiful and ancient building that you are tempted to buy it without a full survey of its condition only to find dry rot infestation and the need for expensive repairs to protect, not only your property, but that of your neighbours.

B is for bite

From Professor Robert Miller, American University of Beirut, Beirut, Lebanon.

In Medical Briefing (May 13) you reported that a specialist at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine was sceptical about old colonial hands' claim that vitamin B tablets helped to keep off mosquitoes.

Has it been suggested that the vitamin B might have helped in

reducing sensitivity to the delayed reaction to bites which Mellanby noted in the 1940s? Studies on army personnel in cages between 1939-45 showed that *Anopheles* would feed on everyone, but that after regular bites nightly or several weeks, sensitivity to further bites fell off (*Nature* 158:751).

At any rate the scepticism about vitamin B preventing bites seems well founded. You did not mention the use of coils of mosquito-repelling incense, which may contain pyrethroids, I'm not sure of either the composition or the spelling, tongue, unbitten in a smoke-filled room which may create its own health hazards.

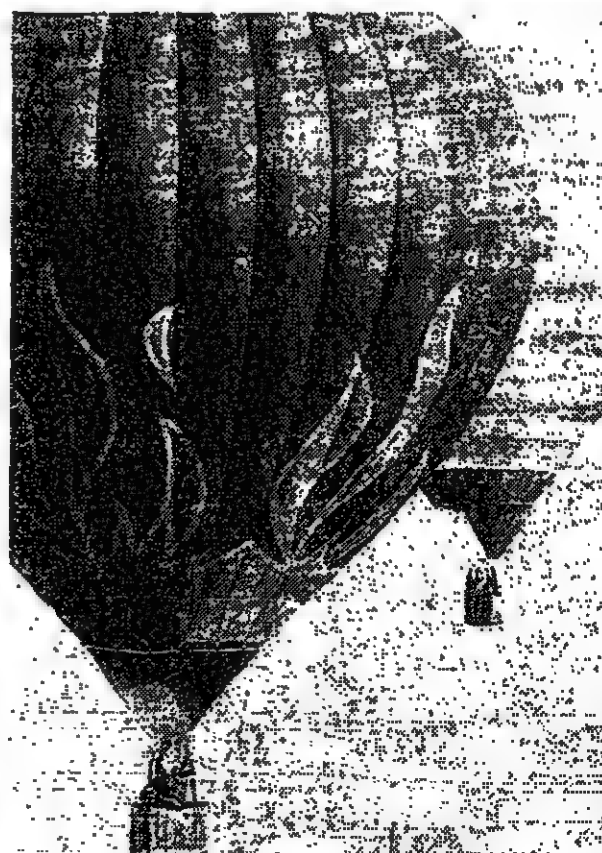
Love or money

From A. M. Parums, 27 Fonthill Terrace, Aberdeen.

Appropos the report that £400,000 has been bequeathed to institute a prize for writers of romantic fiction. Could this fairly be described as a slush fund?

THE TIMES Tomorrow

START THE WEEKEND WITH THE PAPER THAT INFORMS, STIMULATES, AMUSES AND PROVOKES



● **Ballooning:**
Up, up and away with Ronald Faux

● **Travel:** Soccer, sun and sanctity in Brazil; a weekend at the Waldorf-Astoria

● **Sport:**
Racing preview of The Oaks and Ladies' Day at Epsom

● **Family Money:**
How first-time buyers can get trapped in their own home

● **ELECTION SPECIAL:** Constituency profiles and critical analysis of the last weekend before polling day

Plus

News from home and abroad; Values: Summer projects in the garden; Drink: June wines; Fair Life: What makes children laugh; Critics' Choice of the coming week's events in the arts; R records of the month

THE TIMES DIARY

Run of the mill

Margaret Thatcher, who has already been photographed during this election with a dead conger eel, inspecting sludge and driving a dumper truck, refused a photographer's request in a Scottish weaving mill to be pictured in a Tam o' Shanter. "It's too gimmicky," she said. She then flew to north-west England, where she was photographed in a baker's regalia in a Bolton bakery, sipping a half pint in a Stockport brewery.

Lapels go Lab

I have discovered a landslide to Labour among committed voters. The Budge Shop in Earham Street, Covent Garden, has been selling political badges and keeping a tally of the purchases. The results so far are: "I am a floating voter", 4.7 per cent; "Don't vote, it only encourages them", 17.9 per cent; "Vote Liberal/SDP", 7.6 per cent; "Vote Conservative", 11.2 per cent; and "Vote Labour", an overall majority, 58.9 per cent.

Indecision day

My politically open mind this morning is Timothy Abbott. He is contesting Salisbury for the Don't Know party, and he has formed an alliance with the local Undecideds. He is getting 22 per cent support in the opinion polls. "I have no wish to take committed voters from other parties," he says, "but I think it is time for the Don't Knows to stand up and be counted. Only 70 per cent voted in Salisbury last time. We should have a 100 per cent poll at this election." Abbott, a registered psychiatric nurse and former social worker, has not got much on at the moment, so he can take up parliamentary duties if the electorate do decide that they cannot make up their minds.

All-purpose

The work is shared around at British Island Airways, the firm flying Margaret Thatcher on her election tour. The arrival of Captain Roy Heath, the company's marketing director, in the cabin to pilot the plane surprised the travelling press corps. Earlier in the tour his jobs had included helping the stewards clear away the food and drink trays.

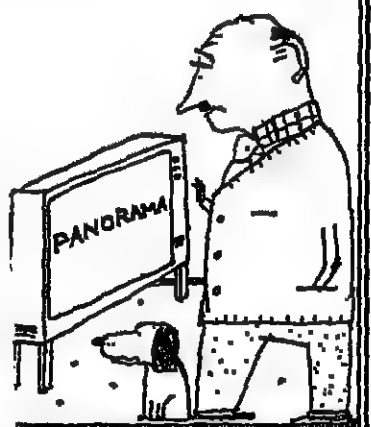
Party games

I have just received a breathless call from Heathrow by a flying Finn called Kauno Viikikka. No, this is not another anagram, although the gist of his message was that the main parties are open to revision, as follows: Liberal becomes "braille", a Russian currency exchange turns Labour into "rouble", while Conservative becomes "revise a TV con", presumably a memo to the other Smith Square wordsmiths.

Boy's own

Even though, as I reported yesterday, our public schools are fighting shy of providing the location for the film of Julian Mitchell's controversial *Another Country*, a small group of boys at Eton are staging the play themselves. Performances, expected to be a sell-out, are in the school's Farrer Theatre on June 16 to 18 and programme advertising is being sold at hard-headed rates. The head of drama has even been roped in to play the only non-juvenile. Downside has already staged the play and I am in a vain search, for Mitchell's old school, Winchester, to follow suit.

BARRY FANTONI



Send the children to bed, Beryl. There's a video nasty coming up.

ake one smile

Yesterday Anton Mosimann, my curate, London hotel chef, staged a bravura display in the kitchen's kitchen to launch his *Cuisine à la Carte*. Such is Mosimann's reputation that there were 650 trained chefs around the kitchen to work with him. But it was fascinating to me, as an amateur face reader, was to discover Mosimann picks all his staff by using their faces. "People with faces cannot be good in kitchens. We have 98 per cent of them with faces now," he was glowing warmly. In the heat of the kitchen, I could believe him.

The programme for the girls' school romp at the Globe Theatre, *Daily Pulls it Off*, includes an old girls section announcing births, marriages and other snippets. Now the school has received a letter from Doris Tang, née Mellowes, marriage 53 years ago is one mentioned. She was at the London School for Girls from 1922, and now lives in the United States. She has been invited up to see the show, though she has rarely gone to town these days except for Old Girls' reunion meetings.

Indore

It looked like that scene from *Gandhi*: the political leader striding out along the dusty road, surrounded and followed by his supporters dressed in white homespun cotton, a hundred to two hundred of them trailing away into the distance. The Mahatma was marching to the sea at Dandi to make salt in contravention of the British laws, and so to dramatize the struggle for the freedom of his people.

In fact, Mr Chandra Shekar, president of the opposition Janata Party, is marching virtually the length of India, from Kanniyakumari in the far south, to Delhi in the north. His aim, he says, is to return political power to the people. "We are trying to take back politics to the villages," he said during a rest just outside this, the largest town in Madhya Pradesh, at about the three-quarter mark of his journey.

The march, 2,500 miles in all, including the zigzagging in and out of towns, is called a *padayatra*, a

The walkabout to end all walkabouts

pilgrimage on foot. The symbolic value of walking about this great dry subcontinent is deeply ingrained in the Indian ethos.

Not only Gandhi in recent times, but Vinoba Bhave also gained respect and reverence from his 13 years of marches attempting to persuade landlords to relinquish land to their tenants. But the tradition goes back at least to the eighth-century holy man, Adi Shankar Acharya, who wandered the country from Kerala to Kashmir, founding centres of learning in ashrams and challenging the Buddhist faith.

Holy men belonging to the Jain sect today still walk the countryside preaching.

Mr Chandra Shekar, aged 56, looks a little like a holy man, with a dark scruffy beard, a burning eye

and a charming smile. His *padayatra* caused some amusement in sophisticated circles when it started, nor could it help the operation of a political party to have its president away from the office for six months at a time.

But the amusement and frustration have died away now the march is beginning to get respectful attention, and the contact with village people is obviously bringing him a growing reputation.

There is little doubt that by the time his pilgrimage ends on June 25 in Delhi - the eighth anniversary of Mrs Gandhi's declaration of a state of emergency - he will have become the second best known politician in the country.

It is becoming difficult for him to meet and listen to people along the

How will the Pope change Poland this time?

Warsaw

At about the time that Karl Marx was worrying about the decline of capitalism, the Polish playwright Zysman Krasinski had some semi-prophetic things to say about the future relationship between communists and Catholics in his homeland.

"Perhaps a communist society really is the highest goal towards which the history of the world inclines; but for it not to become the most terrible irony, the most lunatic despotism, it must come at a time when the light of Christ shines everyone into a saint," he wrote.

General Jaruzelski, the Polish leader, seems to have taken Krasinski's counsel to heart for it is difficult otherwise to see why he is going ahead with the papal visit to Poland in a few weeks time, a visit that promises new strength to the church and new vitality to the Solidarity opposition but offers nothing but high risks and political uncertainty to the government. Pope John Paul II will be flying to Warsaw as a Pole returning to Poland and as the Catholic leader paying tribute to holy shrines - but also as a political tactician, aware of his ability to evoke the strongest political emotions.

His last visit four years ago planted the seed of self-confidence among the workers and effectively spawned the Solidarity revolution. It created a sense of renewal, a feeling that change in Poland had to come from within Poles themselves and could not be imposed from above. There was a widespread revulsion against communist privilege and incompetence and the slogans became "self-government" and "self-management".

This time the effects of the visit will probably be less dramatic but may well be more lasting and fundamental than the 16 months of Solidarity. There will be an unleashing of great energy - but where will it go? Who will exploit it? Who is capable of controlling it?

The Catholic Church is of course the immediate beneficiary of the papal visit. Since the Pope last visited Poland, the church has gone through important internal changes, above all the selection of a new primate, Cardinal Jozef Glemp. It is unfortunate that the changes coincided with the imposition of martial law for they made the church leadership often seem meek, mouthed and irresolute. Since the death of Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński, power has flowed from the post of Primate and Poland's other bishops as represented by the Episcopate.

This is the correct balance under canon law but it has not served Poland as well as it could have done since Jaruzelski declared martial law 18 months ago. The result has been that the government could reject church calls for dialogue with Solidarity, for the full lifting of martial law and for an amnesty of political prisoners.

Church advisers say they have learned two things from their dealings with the authorities. The first is that they are always keen to negotiate when they are in a position of political weakness and want to mobilize popular support; when this weakness turns into a simulacrum of strength, the attitude rapidly changes and the priests have to duck for cover. The second lesson is that the communists, having realized that concerted secularization of Polish society is impossible, are content to divide and rule - sowing priests against bishops, bishops against bishops - to neutralize the church politically.

The Pope can thus play an incisive role by going to Poland when the government is in a state of debility, he can strengthen the church leadership so that it can again press effectively for social concessions. So far, church victories have been limited to their own sectional interests - for example, a bill will be presented soon regulating church-state relations and anchoring the position of the church in Polish society. Even these victories have been somewhat reduced by the crass behaviour of people - one can only assume them to be security officials - who break into churches and beat up lay Catholic workers on holy ground. But the Pope will again give legitimacy to a more concerted "human rights" offensive by the church.

Lech Walesa, who is expected to meet the Pope, and the underground leadership of Solidarity also support the papal visit. The radicals who once argued that it would be more effective to force the government to cancel the trip - and thus expose its weakness - have now fallen in with this line, some only grudgingly. The question in the underground leader-

ship is how to exploit the occasion - demonstrating to millions in the West that Solidarity, not only lives and has papal support, but to do so without debasing the visit and alienating a section of believers.

These are short-term technical problems. In the long term, the opposition - as expressed in a recent underground article by Stefan Bratowski, a dissident journalist - must aim at persuading a section of the establishment that radical change is urgently needed. The people, with a sympathetic segment of the political elite, could, he believes, transform Poland.

The Pope plays a part in this, because he is a concrete sign that the church is a permanent feature in Poland, and that change should be carried out in a way that benefits the majority of people.

In all of this, government motivation remains obscure. Of course, the Pope is also the head of the Vatican State and thus the first western leader to visit Poland since the imposition of martial law. That may be enough to persuade the West to ease sanctions policies, yet

way. He is garlanded every few hundred yards with marigolds, but these occasions appear to cause him some distress as the onward sweep of the marching *padayatri* clashes with the reception committees and people swirl about him.

But he listens as much as he can, mostly to requests to provide drinking water - he has been through some of the most drought-afflicted regions of Kerala and Tamil Nadu, and he and his followers now propose to use some of the money he has raised along the way towards improving the rural water supply.

He is not a compelling public speaker, and can sound preachy and querulous. He has never held ministerial office - he remained Janata Party president all through the party's period in power - and perhaps for this reason is thought unlikely to become Prime Minister if Mrs Gandhi should lose again. But his reputation is now such that he is certain to be the king-maker.

Michael Hamlyn

Faith in defence the Nato way

JUNE 3 83

John
Pardoe

One of the best things to come out of this election so far has been the attention given to the defence issue. I suspect that many people have been forced to reconsider the whole subject.

The old logician Enoch Powell has applied his considerable mind and dragged us back to first principles, not for the first time. His argument that Britain's independent nuclear deterrent is "insane" is not of course new. It was put forward by the Liberal Party as early as 1957 and was one of the policies which persuaded me to join the party. Then, like Mr Powell now, I was totally convinced by the logic of the case.

Britain's nuclear weaponry is, according to Mr Powell, "negligible in comparison with that of Russia". To deploy it against Russia therefore would be to commit suicide since Russian weapons could destroy Britain while Britain's weapons could do comparatively little damage to the Soviet Union.

All this is true and logical. But it is not practical. This distinction is within each one of us. Logically and philosophically I am a pacifist but I know that in practice I would not act as one.

However, Mr Powell's logic is much to be preferred to the extraordinary contortions performed by Mrs Thatcher on *Panorama* this week. She explained her refusal to seek dual-track control of American cruise missiles based on British soil by accusing those who argue for it of mistreating our allies. How could we mistreat America? How disgraceful! In her very next breath however she defended the need for Britain's independent deterrent on the grounds that we could not trust America to come to our defence in a crisis. If Mr Powell loses his highly marginal seat in this election he could do worse than set up as a teacher of logic to British prime ministers.

The defence issues are so complex that probably only a very few "experts" really understand them. There do however appear to be certain essential principles which ought to be stated.

No one can be certain exactly what has kept the peace in Europe since 1945 but I strongly suspect that collective security within Nato and the Warsaw Pact backed by the balance of nuclear terror has been its main bastion.

Tomorrow: Jack Bruce-Gardyne

Philip Howard

Yes, Mr Tebbit, I certainly will

I have sat on the bicycle-seat of the future, and it works except that I fell off doing a U-turn. Alex Moulton, inventor and reviewer of technological books for *The Times*, when they are worth reviewing (which is, alas, not often), has just published his new bicycle. He is the chap who invented the Moulton bicycle, with dinky little wheels, the suspension of the Mini, and much else. His new bike is known as the Moulton Advanced Engineering Bicycle, and is notable for being divisible into two parts at the click of a screw. It also weighs only 24 lb, is a miracle of ingenious design, with the pump, for example, secreted in the steel tube that holds the saddle, and costs rather more than I had in mind paying for a new bicycle, when my 1942 second-hand iron horse finally falls into two parts.

A. Moulton brought two of his new bikes in four parts in the boot of his car over to Edington in the Vale of the White Horse, near his stately Jacobean offices at Bradford-on-Avon, last Sunday. He assembled them as deftly as those of us with fingers like bunches of bananas screw on the tops of our fountain pens, and gave us a pep talk about the virtues of his invention. Then we set off to try them. That was where I fell off. This was partly because I find sharp turns on small-wheeled bikes an unstable affair; partly because when you pedal backwards the thing changes gear instead of free-wheeling, partly because there are steep hills hereabouts, my masters; you remember the Battle of Ethandune or Edington?

King Guthrum lay on the upper land.
On a single road at gaze,
And his foe must come with lean array.

Up the left arm of the cloven way.
To the meeting of the ways.
"Lean array" would be meiosis to describe our condition after west Wiltshire Sunday lunch; but we came wobbling up the steep single road to the meeting of the ways, and fell off.

A new bicycle was one of the most memorable events of one's childhood, even a "new" second-hand bicycle, and some of the excitement lingers on. Then shiny stainless steel and those interesting knobs are irresistible. It is no small thing to get on your bike, if it is a new one. To give one's name to a new kind of bicycle is one of the most gratifying and least harmful inventions available to man.

I suppose that Leonardo da Vinci was the first who nearly invented the push-bike. There is the design for a machine driven by cranks and pedals with connecting rods that has been ascribed to him. It looks the sort of thing that a man could fall off without trying. The precursor of the bike was the *cyclette* or *velocipede*, demonstrated at the Palais Royal, Paris, in 1791. It consisted of a sort of wooden horse on two wheels. The rider sat astride it and propelled it

with alternate thrusts of his feet, until he fell off. I quite fancy one of those, though I shall try it out on a less public and less congested track than Gray's Inn Road.

Then around 1817 the German engineer Baron von Drais de Sauerbrunn produced a contraption with a pivoting front wheel, a handlebar, and an arm rest. It could roll along at about eight miles an hour, and was called a *draisienne*, the first eponymous bike, precursor of your Moulton. The next stage in the Tour d'Appliances was taken by Kirkpatrick Macmillan, blacksmith of Dumfries, who built a two-wheeled machine on the treadle



Alex Moulton, public benefactor principle. The treadles were connected with the rear wheel, and the machine could be ridden without the rider's feet touching the ground, except in the bumper parts of Dumfries, you understand.

The blacksmith was not just the inventor, but the original racing cyclist. In 1842 he rode from Thornhill to Glasgow, but en route knocked down a child. After a somewhat sensational court case, he set out for home. On the way he fell in with a friend, driving the Glasgow to Carlisle mail coach. Macmillan bet him that he could race the coach to Sanquhar, and won. And the new world of pumping legs and dipping inner tubes into buckets of water to locate the puncture was born.

You can see Kirkpatrick Macmillan's Heath Robinson invention of wood and cranks and rods in the Science Museum at Kensington; but you would be imprudent to try to ride it. These bicycle inventors are public benefactors. The sun shines. The blue is out. The open road beckons, in between the traffic jams and the murderous bus drivers. On your bike, Howard.

Why Fleet Street is boxed in

The press and the election, by Christopher Ward

mass-circulation success. During the election *The Sun* seems to have been the only paper to have kept one eye firmly on the box. Recognizing that its readers have had an overdose of politicians and election issues on radio and television *The Sun* has let its front page every day (until yesterday, anyway) with something completely different: "Scandal of a blind driver" (last Friday); "Naughty! Di ticks off boy who stole a kiss" (Saturday); "Our Di looks swell" (Monday); "England stars in drink swoop" (Tuesday); "Wives vote for Lester" (Wednesday).

If television has played a key role in keeping a lot of political news out of *The Sun*, it has played an even greater part in how *The Sun* has handled its election coverage. *The Sun's* philosophy is: if it happens on television when millions are watching, it's news. The election story gives the most prominence on Monday, for instance, was not so much about the Alliance's problems but the fact that "Mr Steel will be seen more and more on TV, where he has shown himself an impressive performer." Because of his successful

exposure on television, and not for any other reason, David Steel therefore becomes of interest to *Sun* readers and thus worthy of *The Sun's* first election page one lead yesterday - "Steel brand rocks foot" - in which Steel is twice described as a "telly star".

While *The Sun* has been watching television the *Daily Mirror*, which I referred to here a couple of weeks ago as "the dog that didn't bark in the night", has again been making news - this time with its "Foot sensation: will he or won't he resign?" front page on Wednesday, into which, I suspect, nothing sinister of significance should be read.

The paper that ought to be making the biggest headlines isn't even being published at the moment - the *Financial Times*. The dispute that has stopped production of the *FT* could not have come at a more embarrassing time for the newspaper or indeed for the Government. Having put the boot into the Tory party and Tory policies at every opportunity and gone out of its way to ask awkward questions, the voice of the City had, no doubt, planned

to come out firmly for Maggie at some strategic moment between now and the election. It may not now have that opportunity if the dispute continues.

And if there is no *FT* before the election, the paper can hardly come out afterwards offering its congratulations. Not after the memorable headlines of the paper's last issue, on Tuesday, which aren't likely to be forgotten in a hurry by Mrs Thatcher. "Steel hits at Mrs Thatcher's 'obsession'", "Jobs blight touches West London".

What this election has lacked so far is any surprises. There have been no sensational revelations, no truly monstrous allegations made by one politician against another, no acts of extreme silliness to lighten the gloom. So my heart leapt when I picked up the *Daily Mirror* on Tuesday and read the front page headline FOOT BITES BACK. For a wonderful moment I thought Foot had bitten his lovely dog Dizzy, the dog who, George Gale reported in the *Daily Express*, has stopped wagging his tail. Labour leader bites dog. Now that would be a story.

The author was until recently editor of the *Daily Express*.

Roger Boyes



P.O. Box 7, 200 Gray's Inn Road, London WC1X 8EZ. Telephone: 01-837 1234

THE FALKLANDS FACTOR

There are many reasons why it would have been better to have left the Falklands war out of the election campaign. The first is that the legacy which led to that war was a bipartisan one. True, the final miscalculation lay with Mrs Thatcher's government, but both Labour and Tory governments before her had tilted the seedbed of future misadventure. The second, as a consequence of the first, is that both governments suffer from the paradox that, though Britain has been in a shooting match with Argentina, she has supplied and continues to supply finance and military equipment to that country.

The ships, missiles and helicopters which Argentina used against British forces were all sold to her under Labour governments, as were the turbine engines now being installed in German frigates destined for Argentina. Over the same period the junta has and is receiving international financial help from banking consortia which include British banks, and which thus have always enabled the generals to relieve their indebtedness while continuing to buy even more arms on the open market. Mr Healey's accusations of hypocrisy thus come ill from a former Labour Defence Secretary and Chancellor.

The third reason is that lessons learnt in war - be they operational or political - are best acted on after patient enquiry and analysis, rather than through bombastic exchanges on the hustings. The fourth is that the armed forces who risked (and lost) their lives in the service of their country and in defence of the Falklands, are still at a state of readiness against any recurrence of the risk. That dedication can only be cheapened by the spectacle of its being exploited at home, either to the advantage of the government or as a political weapon with which to berate it. With all his experience Mr Healey knew this, and should thus have known better than to indulge in the coarse intervention for which he was rightly criticised yesterday. Sadly it has always been an aspect of Mr Healey's political character that, in spite of (or maybe because of) his superior intellect, he has felt it necessary to present himself as the common man by calculated coarseness and other unnecessary vulgarity. So he introduced the Falklands factor in the crudest way he could.

The election issue therefore is sovereignty, not whether it should be negotiated, but how it might be transferred. You either have sovereignty and defend it, or you give it away. Negotiations in those circumstances are merely about the conditions and arrangements for the inhabitants of the territory to be transferred.

The government's principle is that sovereignty is not negotiable and not transferable, and that, while the Argentines remain belligerent, the cost of defending such a proposition - several hundred million pounds per year - is something which just has to be borne. The Opposition Parties can contest that proposition - as

Dr Owen has done - but only on the basis of the question: should we defend the Falklands, even at that price, or should we prepare to give them away?

There remains the question of the Belgrano. One of the reasons why this question will not go away is that all those people who opposed the Falklands operation last year still have a vested interest in vindicating opinions which have otherwise been hopelessly vitiated by events. They believe that the sinking of the Belgrano is one such event. They hope that the facts will provide grounds for suggesting that Mrs Thatcher was always determined to go to war, in disregard of any apparent proposals for peace.

The Argentine Junta refuses to announce any formal cessation of hostilities. British troops are therefore still at risk in defending the Falklands. As long as a state of suspended hostilities obtains, the only Falklands factor which should legitimately enter the election is the issue of principle for the future. That issue is not whether or not there should be negotiations with Argentina, because of course there should. There is much to discuss in the search for a more tolerable *modus vivendi* in the South Atlantic. But if that can only be done by making a prior commitment to negotiate sovereignty, then nothing will be discussed.

There are demands for an enquiry. It is a measure of this country's fortunate insulation from most warlike activity for more than a generation that the sinking of a hostile ship - during hostilities - should remain the subject of persistent demands for an enquiry. Can one imagine what a long procession of enquiries would have occurred after 1945 if such had been the attitude then? The loss of all British warships has indeed been followed by painstaking and painful naval enquiries so that lessons can be learnt for the future. But quite rightly the result of those enquiries has remained at the technical level and has not become the subject of political pressures exercised in a different context at the expense of the surviving professionals who still have to carry on with their dangerous tasks in the South Atlantic.

Yesterday the Prime Minister once again rejected such an enquiry. The charge against her is that she deliberately changed the naval rules of engagement to sink both the Belgrano and the possibility that the Junta would accept the Peruvian peace proposals subsequently endorsed by the British Cabinet. What are the operational and political facts?

First the British were already aware from Mr Alexander Haig that it was virtually impossible to engage the Junta in any serious discussion. They also knew that while General Galtieri was ostensibly considering the Peruvian proposals, the Argentine navy was fully at sea advancing on the British Task Force from three directions. One of those threats consisted of the Belgrano and two destroyers

armed with Exocets, capable of destroying a war ship at up to 40 miles range.

Argentina had been warned previously that British warships would act in self defence on the high seas, and would automatically attack any Argentine ship within the stated exclusion zone around the Falklands. The general self-defence provision was not applicable to nuclear submarines except in circumstances of a submarine-to-submarine encounter. So when the Captain of HMS Conqueror discovered the Belgrano force advancing towards British ships he had to seek specific permission to have the rules changed before he could engage the cruiser.

That permission was sought from the war Cabinet and was granted. Operationally speaking the risk of not granting it would have been to allow Belgrano and its attendant Exocets loose among the Task Force. British ships had already been bombed and they had no permanent reconnaissance capability since the Harrier aircraft had to act as air defence against bombers.

Operationally speaking only overriding diplomatic reasons would have justified placing the British shipping - frigates, carriers, even Canberra - in such jeopardy from an Exocet-armed force. The fact that Belgrano was sailing westward at the time is totally immaterial. Has anybody bothered to ask which way HMS Sheffield's bows were pointing when she went down, or any of the other British warships which were sunk? It takes a mere 30 seconds to alter course, as Belgrano had done many times before she was sunk.

In those circumstances the hypothetical possibility that the Junta might change character and genuinely embrace a peace proposal - against all previous evidence - could not have been seriously entertained by the British War Cabinet without exposing the Task Force, and therefore Britain's whole ability, if necessary, to recapture the Falklands, to a quite unacceptable risk.

However it was not these rational and strategic considerations which lay behind Mr Healey's attack. It was an intention to portray the Prime Minister, by association, as a person whose bloodthirsty and callous approach to the Falklands was to be found in her attitude to unemployment, health, welfare, and the deterrent. That goes far beyond the tactics of "whose finger on the trigger" - a previous Labour ploy. It goes beyond the suggestion that the Prime Minister's style of leadership is more suited to winning a war than enhancing the peace. Those are legitimate questions to raise in an election where the quality of political leadership on offer is widely accepted as being even more important than the range of policies put forward; but this is not the way to raise them. It goes far beyond all reasonable standards of political debate, and in so doing, it goes too far.

Nuclear war: the over-riding issue

From Professor John H. Humphrey, FRS, and others

Sir, Policy statements of the main parties and their proposals for the social and economic future of this country are of very great importance to the people of Britain about to elect a new government. However, if our country were to be involved in a nuclear war, the social and economic systems about which we argue would become totally irrelevant to the survivors.

The possibility of nuclear war is a political matter of such overriding importance that it should transcend party politics. As doctors and scientists who have made a study of the foreseeable consequences of nuclear war, we are aware how dangerous is the threat posed by nuclear weapons, and deeply concerned that the vast build-up and deployment of these weapons by Nato and the Soviet Union should be halted and reversed. Similar concerns have indeed been expressed by the leaders of all the parties, though they differ about how to achieve this.

During the general election campaign clear thinking and discussion about these problems has become clouded by party stances - by the need of politicians to defend their past policies, by intemperate assumptions that the Soviet Union and the West are and must remain sworn enemies, and by suggestions that those who question the justification of deploying more nuclear weapons betray their country.

These obscure the real issue. What is ultimately at stake is the survival of our civilization, and voters and politicians should realize this.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN H. HUMPHREY, DOROTHY CROWFOOT
JOHN WANCUP, BOOGIN,
CONFORTH, RUDOLPH PEBERLS,
MARTIN ROTH, MARTIN RYLE,
PAUL PATT, M.R.E. WILKINS,
ROBERT A. HINDE, R. HOFFENBERG,
7 Toulson Road,
Cambridge,
May 31.

Dual-key missiles

From Lord Kennet

Sir, Marshal of the RAF, Sir William Dickson, writes (June 2) that "the understanding about joint decision making" on the launching of United States nuclear weapons from British "has satisfied the heads of all governments of both our nations since 1951". It did not satisfy Mr Macmillan when he was Prime Minister and insisted on a dual-key arrangement for the American Thor missiles stationed here in 1958.

The present government says that to have a dual-key (as 96 per cent of people want) on the cruise missiles now would mean we should have to buy them. When the Government is asked if it has suggested a dual-key without buying them it does not answer.

Mr Heseltine's repeated comparison of the trust the United States shows for us in selling us Trident missiles without dual-key, with the mistrust we in the SDP/Liberal Alliance show for them in asking for dual-key on the cruise missiles, is a smokescreen. The Trident system (if we proceed with the purchase) would consist of British warheads fired from British boats, using British bases. The cruise system (if we accept it) would consist of American warheads fired by American missiles from British soil.

Does anyone think the United States would not require a dual-key on a wholly British nuclear weapon now stationed fifty miles west of New York?

Yours etc,
WAYLAND KENNET,
House of Lords,
June 2.

Hedge against loss

From Mr Mark Tottendell

Sir, I was amused by the well-written irony of Mr Peter Adorian's letter (May 23), but I feel that his considerable sense of humour should not be allowed to conceal one vital point. There is an important difference between an automatic washing machine and a flail hedge cutter. They both save considerable time and effort, but the former does its particular job adequately, the latter does not.

As I am sure Mr Adorian is aware, if he continues to flail-trim his hedges instead of hand-laying them, they will eventually grow woody, straggly and thinly spaced, losing both their visual appeal and their efficiency as barriers. He then has the choices of supplementing them with unsightly fencing or removing them altogether.

This is his right, but I hope he would not have the audacity to claim that either result would be "rather attractive".

Yours faithfully,
MARK TOTTERDELL,
Clarks Hill,
North Curry,
Taunton,
Somerset,
May 24.

Equitable rating

From Councillor Richard Clarke

Sir, Having, during the last 12 months, introduced two motions directed firstly towards expanding the financial base for local property taxation and secondly towards establishing greater local control over local expenditure, I welcome your leader "Rate of decline" of May 24.

As you rightly say, none of the main parties address themselves seriously to the question of local revenue for local expenditure and from their utterances now and over recent years one can only conclude that, whilst giving lip service to local democracy, all parties are intent on gathering ever greater power to the

Labour's interest in a Tory victory

From Mr George Watson

Sir, A biased claim by the Chairman of the Conservative Party, Mr Neil Parkison, in the face of a rising tide of Alliance support, that Labour still has a chance in the election should remind us here, in the end, that chance comes from an election system unique in Western Europe, and the only one known to ever likely to produce a large number of Labour seats in the Commons. The Conservatives have chosen to keep it. In other words, the Thatcher Government has chosen to keep Mr Foot's party alive.

Labour sits by grace and favour of the Tories, who slapped a preservation order on it years ago - conscious, no doubt, that it represents the best reason anyone is ever likely to find for voting Conservative. No doubt it would like to sleep a preservation order on Mr Foot himself.

By the same token, all Labour leaders must be conscious that they have nothing much to fear from the Conservative government. They never did. A saying doubt remains, however, in the minds of millions, and it is one that no Conservative leader has ever attempted to answer.

It is this. If Conservatives are as anti-socialist as they claim, why do they prefer the Labour Party to electoral reform?

Yours, etc,
GEORGE WATSON,
St John's College,
Cambridge,
June 1.

From Mr Stephen Carlin

Sir, One may have to be a comedian to support the Conservative (letter, May 31) but it seems that in order to be a member of a Conservative cabinet the comical qualifications are needed. In recent conversation with a very "dry" Conservative I expressed admiration for one of the "wet" Conservative ex-cabinet members - a Beral, civilised, cultured and highly intelligent man. In reply the "dry" Conservative said: "He is indeed - he's got a sense of humour".

Yours faithfully,
STEPHEN CARLIN,
77 Peterborough Road, SW6.

North-South divide

From the Leader of the Kenilworth Council

Sir, I was very sad to read the letter of Mr D. Blinkest, the Leader of Sheffield City Council published on May 27. Sad because it perpetuates the divided nation which we can do little for the male of the country at the present time.

Mr Blinkest should not believe that only the major cities of this land are suffering from recession. There are parts of the "affluent south-east" where the effects of world-wide recession are being felt and where there is a job for sensitive and caring local authorities to do. Their task will not be made any easier if they are in conflict with the central government.

The task is too important to be affected by political agreement between authorities and whatever government may be named on June 9. That is not to say there is not

Belgrano sinking

From Mr S. S. Garson

Sir, As one who has followed the Falklands Islands conflict closely, I really am amazed when I read (May 31) of Mr Brownjohn's worry over the sinking of the Belgrano. Has he forgotten we were at war with Argentina (aren't we still)? Invention of his aggression and their intention to sink our ship - being so away from home - it was the Admiral of the Fleet at the Falklands to decide whether to sink the Belgrano, and it is my opinion that he was aware there was imminent danger of the Belgrano sinking our ships even outside the exclusion zone. HM Government was correct in taking the Admiral's advice; and the Junta in BA were not surprised, only shocked, for they believed that Belgrano would demolish our fleet within or without the exclusion zone.

Yours faithfully,
S. S. GARSON,
17 Lichfield Gardens,
Richmond,
Surrey.

Compulsory insurance

From Mr David Hancock

Sir, It is reported in today's *Times* (May 27) that Mrs Kitty Leve has been ordered to pay £250,000 in damages to the rider of a motorcycle who suffered severe brain damage after Mrs Leve's dog ran into the path of the motorcycle. Fortunately for both parties Mrs Leve had public liability insurance cover.

No one is never negligent. One momentary lapse (e.g. stepping from a pavement without looking properly and knocking a cyclist into the path of a passing vehicle) could bankrupt the defendant and leave

the plaintiff with only derisory financial redress.

The idea is by no means new, but surely the time has come for some sort of compulsory public liability insurance cover. The premium would be very small (Mrs Leve's was 10p a week) and it is difficult to imagine any rational person who has no vested interest opposing at least the principle.

Let us hope that the next Parliament will address itself to devising a suitable scheme without delay.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID HANCOCK,
89 Connaught Gardens, SW7,
May 27.

From Lady Sharp

Sir, Perhaps the real election issue is, or if not, ought to be, not so much which party's policies we support, as what style of government we want to see over the next four years: the Parliamentary democracy we have fought for over the years, and to which we are accustomed, or the prime ministerial dictatorship we seem to be developing, which will tolerate no difference of opinion, whether from an elected local authority, or from a parliamentary colleague, or indeed from anyone else who might be thought to carry some weight.

Fortunately, owing to the emergence of a third possible choice in the shape of the Alliance, we can if we so wish, express our dislike of the new style of government without having to vote for the Labour Party whose policies we may not feel able to support.

Yours faithfully,
EVELYN SHARP,
The Old Post Office,
6 High Street,
Lavenham,
Suffolk,
May 30.

From Professor Sir John Butterfield

Sir, If the polls are to be believed, those worthy defenders of our democracy in the past - the floating voters - have disappeared, netted by the major parties. If the results are correct, congratulations to the major parties, the media and the pollsters on a remarkable achievement in communication. But is it really true that only 5 per cent of the electorate is uncommitted? The implied 95 per cent response rate is hardly credible to someone used to medical enquiries involving questions put to truly random samples of the electoral roll across the country over the last 20 years.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN BUTTERFIELD,
Cambridge University School of Clinical Medicine,
Addenbrooke's Hospital,
Hills Road,
Cambridge,
May 30.

room for different political opinions in local government, indeed the effectiveness of local democracy frequently flourishes in such a climate. But Mr Blinkest should not put political considerations above his local authority responsibilities.

This country must be governed as one nation. Any attempt to use the independence of local authorities, particularly the major cities of this country which have such a proud record in the provision of local services, for the purpose of political division should be abandoned.

We have an immense task of reconstruction to tackle throughout the country. It will best be achieved by collaboration between local government and central government and not by conflict.

Yours faithfully,
ROBERT H. B. NEAME,
County Hall,
Maidstone,
Kent,
May 27.

As she is spoke

From Dr M. J. Harte

Sir, Your report today (May 18) that British school leavers are lagging behind their European counterparts in foreign languages is not surprising, if our experience is any guide. After six years in Brussels we are returning to London with a seventeen-year-old daughter facing her final A-level year at school. At the British School of Brussels she has been studying for the London Bore examination in colloquial French - but, search where we may, we can find no state school in London offering this course.

Academic French A-level courses have their place, but it is our experience that they do not hold the pupil's interest as the colloquial language course can do. So why is the latter not available? Could it be that it is harder work to teach?

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL J. HARTE,
Ave 12 Gen Pire 18,
1150 Brussels,
May 18.

Location of betting shops

From Miss Lucie Clayton

Sir, I write to inform you of a minor item of social and legal history, unreported elsewhere, which even at election time should not go unremarked.

On May 17 the Licensing Magistrates of the Petty Sessions Division of West London over-ruled the counsel's argument on behalf of the objectors and granted a betting shop licence to premises attached to this college for girls.

The average age of our pupils is just under seventeen and we are an official examination centre both for our own and for girls from other colleges. The Betting, Gaming and Lotteries Act 1963 states that the magistrates may refuse an application if, having regard to the character or location of the premises (my italics), they are not suitable for use as a licensed betting shop.

If, Sir, being next to a girls' school is considered suitable for a betting shop, what could the legislators possibly have had in mind as being unsuitable? It may be that some of them are still around, perhaps even now hoping to become legislators again, so that they may be able to enlighten us.

There is one other point on which it would be interesting to have their comment. Under the Act objectors have no right of appeal.

Yours faithfully,
LUCIE CLAYTON,
Lucie Clayton Senior College,
168 Brompton Road, SW3,
June 1.

Islamic divorce law

From Mr K. Kishiahy

Sir, As an Iraqi lawyer and a Moslem married to a Cornish woman, I must correct the misconceptions aired by the Rev C. A. Roach of Cornwall (May 26). No woman is required to change her religion or nationality to marry a Moslem. No one asked my wife to do so when we were in Iraq. The kind of traditional village divorce "I divorce you thrice" mentioned by Rev Roach is invalid in Iraq. The husband has to apply to court and go through procedures of increasing difficulties.

The Islamic law stipulates maintenance for the divorced wife for a brief period and for the daughters until they are married, and the woman mentioned by him had no reason to "go on the streets". There are, however, law breakers and rogue husbands everywhere.

Islamic marriage is a form of civil contract with both parties having the right to include their own conditions. My advice to any worried British woman marrying a Moslem is to stipulate her own terms, like her absolute right to divorce him and receive heavy compensation in the form of *mahr* in the eventuality of divorce. Her problem is not one of embracing Islam but of her husband ignoring the tenets of Islam.

Yours faithfully,
K. KISHIAHY,
63 Compton Road,
Wimbledon, SW19,
May 26.

Volcanoes and weather

From Dr and Mrs Ward

Sir, The article from your correspondent John Withnower (May 25), prompts us to ask your readers whether there exist meteorological records of weather conditions prevailing in Western Europe immediately after 1824, when the numerous volcanoes in the region of Timanfaya on Lanzarote erupted with such locally devastating results.

A longer period of volcanic activity occurred during 1730-36 but we doubt the availability of records during these years. These we feel will be relevant to weather conditions recently prevailing, especially in the North West!

Yours faithfully,
MARGARET WARD,
RICHARD WARD,
Lester House,
6 St Andrew's Street,
Blackburn,
Lancashire,
May 26.

On a clear day

From Group Captain Ralph Edwards (ret)

Sir, There must be a great many people who have struggled up to the top of Tiger Hill about Darjeeling in anticipation of the ensuing dawn.

In clear weather this spectacle starts with the blushing of the tip of Everest well over 100 miles away and continues with ever-increasing brilliance until the scene is dominated by the comparative nearness of Kanchenjunga and the spectacle is himself bathed in sunlight.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,
RALPH EDWARDS,
Mannamed,
Green Close,
Hemingford Grey,
Huntingdon,
May 26.

From Mr A. A. H. Douglas

Sir, On a memorable clear day when I was aged 19 or 20 (and sixty years later I still have excellent long sight) and a friend climbed to the top Ben Ledi near Callander, Perthshire. From the summit we could clearly distinguish with the naked eye Goat Fell in Arran, in the Atlantic waters of the Firth of Clyde, and the Forth Bridge, in the waters of the North Sea.

Is there any other point in an island from which objects in seas can be seen on a clear day?

Yours faithfully,
A. DOUGLAS,
Ashley,
Shalbourne,
Wiltshire,
May 26.

Investment and Finance

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THE TIMES

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STOCK EXCHANGES

FT Index 688.7 down 5.9
FT 100 82.55 up 0.38
FT All Share 432.23 down 1.75

Bargains 19.190
Tingling USM Index 167.0 down 1.3
Tokyo Nikkei Dow Jones Index 8,517.88 down 31.82
Hongkong Hang Seng Index 919.34 down 3.81
New York Dow Jones Average (latest) 1,205.93 up 3.72

CURRENCIES

LONDON CLOSE
Sterling \$1.5835 down 70 pts
DM 4.0225 down 0.0325
FF 127.09 down 0.11
Yen 309.50 down 4.25
Dollar
Index 124.4 down 0.4
DM 2.5373 down 116 pts
Gold
\$413 unchanged
NEW YORK LATEST
Gold \$410.00
Sterling \$1.5910

INTEREST RATES

Domestic rates
Base rates 10
3 month interbank 10 7/8 - 10 1/2
Euro-currency rates
3 month dollar 9 1/4 - 9 1/2
3 month DM 5 1/2 - 5 3/4
3 month 16 1/2 - 16 3/4

ECGD Fixed Rate Sterling
Export Finance Scheme IV
Average reference rate for interest period April 6 to May 3 1983 inclusive: 10.304 per cent.

PRICE CHANGES

Fitch Lovell 153p up 3p
H Samuel 120p up 8p
Asco News 303p up 10p
Black & Edge 79p up 11p
Air Call 340p up 22p
Lon Liv Trust 142p down 3p
Beecham 300p down 28p
GKN 155p down 3p
Hawker 364p down 8p

TODAY

Interim Dobson Park Industries, Johnson and Firth Brown, Messina
Fines: Computer and Systems Engineering, Dwek Group, Bedford-Liley Industries, Keep Investment Trust.
Economic statistics: Unemployment (May, provisional), unfilled vacancies (May, provisional), Car and Commercial vehicle production (April, final).

NOTEBOOK

● Habitat Motocare, the retail group, reported a 24 per cent increase in pretax profits at £22.65m calculated on an annual basis.
● UBM, one of Britain's biggest builders' merchants, turned last year's £2m loss into a £2.8m profit before tax. The group, with an enhanced market trading, is looking for diversification.

Page 18

Options go ahead for unit trusts

Unit trusts have been given the go-ahead to invest in traded options. The Secretary of State for Trade has issued a general permission for trusts to invest in traded options following three years of negotiations between the Unit Trust Association and the Department of Trade.

Standard clauses to be inserted in trust deeds are still being agreed with the DoT but should be completed within the next few days and circulated to UTA members.

● WINE FLOWS: Sales of table wine in Britain rose by more than 24 million litres in the 12 months to February 1-1, an increase of 8.31 per cent over the previous year, according to the Wine and Spirit Association. However, sales of sherry and vermouth declined by more than 11 per cent to 90.6 million litres.

● BTR VETO: BTR and its associates now control more than 25 per cent of Thomas Tilling, the company said. It is now in a position to block any sale of associate companies by Tilling.

● BISHOP'S LOSS: Food retailers Bishop's, which has 70 shops, has lost more on wholesaling, baking and central computer costs than it made through its supermarkets. The result is a loss of £919,000 after tax and extraordinary items for the year to February 26, against a profit of £426,000.

● DUNLOP YES: Shareholders of Dunlop Holdings have voted overwhelmingly to approve the company's report and accounts for 1982 and to re-elect Mr Colin Hope, director of the European tyre division, to the board, in the poll dominated by the company's annual meeting on Tuesday.

WALL STREET
Opening rush steadies

New York (AP-DJ) - Stocks held steady in early trading as analysts continued to watch interest rates closely.

Treasury issues also traded below their opening highs. Fed funds were at 8.75 where they opened.

The Dow Jones industrial average was up about 3.5 points at 1,205.93. It had been up six earlier. The transportation average was up a fraction.

Advancing issues were seven to three ahead of declines. Turnover slowed from active trading in the opening moments to a more moderate rate. In the first hour about 25 million shares changed hands, about a million more than the same time on Wednesday.

"The market is strong because of the decline in interest rates in recent months," Mr John Groome, senior vice-president of US Trust Co, said. "However, I don't look for any substantial decline in rates from here. We've had the major move down already."

"I don't want to be too pessimistic," he said, "but I do think the easiest path for the market is going to be down from here on out."

However, Mr Malcolm C. Wilson, vice-president and director of Equity Research for Provident National Bank in Philadelphia, said: "We don't see a significant correction in the immediate future."

The retailers advanced on reports of healthy sales increases in May. Woolworth was up 1.125 at 32.375, R. H. Macy up 0.375 at 51.125, and K. Mart up 1.375 at 32.

Uphill was ahead 1.875 to 62.125, Boeing up 1.25 at 42.5, Goia Industries up 1.625 at 30.25, Ford up 1.25 at 50, and Chrysler up 0.5 at 26.875.

Trading improves at BP

By Michael Prest

Higher production from the North Sea and lower losses from its chemical and refined product sales helped British Petroleum double first-quarter profits, adjusted for the cost of replacing oil stocks. It increased its figure from £102m in 1982 to £201m in 1983.

On the more commonly used historical cost basis, however, pretax profits were only £3m higher at £433m. But these figures include stock losses - estimated by the industry at £102m - incurred when the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries cut its price last March.

BP has insisted for a long while that the replacement-cost figure gives a clearer indication of the underlying trend. The difference is highlighted by the importance of Sobio, BP's American subsidiary. Sobio's net contribution in the quarter was £113m (up from £110m), more than the BP's group's profit before extraordinary items of £74m (against £91m) on the historical cost convention.

But while Sobio's oil production and revenue fell, the effect being masked by the appreciation of the dollar, BP's share of production from the North Sea rose from an average of 440,000 barrels per day to 496,000 barrels per day. Operating profit from these and related operations was £303m compared with £252m.

The most important changes, however, were in the previously very troubled oil products and chemicals divisions, which City analysts now believe to be on the mend. Although demand for oil products is still depressed, trading losses fell from £114m to £15m.

British companies are emerging from the recession and are in the most comfortable financial position since the economic downturn began, a new official survey suggests. Company liquidity improved sharply in the first quarter of this year to its best level since mid-1979, with the bulk of the improvement coming in the

Trafalgar attacks D's financial position and 'poor management'

By Our Financial Staff

Trafalgar House, owner of the QE2 and the Ritz Hotel, yesterday launched its first broadside in the near £300m takeover battle for control of P & O, Britain's biggest shipping company.

Mr Nigel Brookes, Trafalgar chairman, said that P & O was in a financial straitjacket. It had a weak financial position, had reported an 18 per cent profits drop for last year and had assets valued at £150m more than they were worth.

But Trafalgar's all-share bid launched early last month is still viewed by the City as a sighting shot.

At last night's price of 17p, Trafalgar's five-for-four share swap values P & O's shares closed last night at 202p, after dipping to 197p.

Mr Oliver Brooks, managing director of P & O, said: "We still think this is a desecratory offer. I believe Mr Brookes's intention is serious but not with this level of bid."

He pointed out that the share issue was not underwritten and therefore costing Trafalgar nothing to make at the moment. It is believed that the engineering and energy group BTR spent

£6m getting its £650m Tilling takeover bid Britain's largest underwritten.

"I can't give you figures, but we now have the results of an independent valuation of our assets which shows Trafalgar's terms are insufficient," Mr Brooks said.

Mr Brooks, speaking in Cunard's new 25,000-ton luxury passenger liner, Vistafjord, said that those looking for higher terms should think again.

"There is no reason to change these terms unless they come up with something exceptional in their defence. In the last four bids, we haven't raised our terms."

Trafalgar said, in its formal offer document prepared in a chatty style by the Saatchi and Saatchi advertising agency, that it believes P & O's present predicament is largely attributable to poor management which offers no evidence to suggest that it is capable of reversing the company's flagging fortunes.

Contrasting the two businesses, Trafalgar says that Bovis, P & O's construction and house-building group, has produced an erratic profits record that the group's £300m worth of ship-



Trafalgar's Brooks.

ping assets contributed only £1m to last year's pretax profits and that its oil and gas business constituted only of trading oil products since its sale of its interest in the North Sea's Beatrice field.

As for Trafalgar itself, the company said that it looked

polling day next week should bring further news of its present trading prospects.

Meanwhile, P & O will today start to repel potential boarders with advertisements in the press. It will tell its 50,000 shareholders to do nothing. Its formal defence document is due in about a fortnight.

Meanwhile, all sides are arguing before the Office of Fair Trading. Both P & O unions have given evidence against Trafalgar making a takeover, and it is believed the Ministry of Defence will submit evidence on its worries.

Mr Brooks believed that the OFT is more concerned with a thorough review of the entire British shipping industry rather than the monopoly implications of the bid.

A decision on the OFT's recommendation is expected to be made by the Secretary of State before the first closing date of the bid, on June 23.

The general election has bought added uncertainty to the takeover, and analysts believe that the real battle will not start until mid-June.

Beecham's 17pc rise disappoints City

By Jeremy Warner

Beecham Group, the pharmaceuticals and consumer products company, disappointed the stock market yesterday when it reported pretax profits for the year to the end of last March of £237.1m.

Although profits were 17 per cent higher than the £202m of the year before, they fell well short of the £245m to £250m that stockbrokers had expected. The group's shares fell 28p to 380p, wiping £183m off the company's stock exchange value and contributing to the sharp fall in the FT 3-share index.

Brokers had expected that fluctuating exchange rates during the course of the year would add more than £20m to Beecham's profits, but the actual figure was only £13.5m.

In addition, price reductions for pharmaceutical products officially dictated in Japan during the second half of the year damaged the contribution from one of the group's most important markets. Trading profits from Asia and Australia were only £5m higher at £56m and in local currency terms were even less good.

However, outside Japan, the results were in line with expectations, once the effects of exchange rate differences are ironed out.

The outstanding performance

Beecham Group Year to 31.3.83
Pretax profits £237.1m (£201.9m)
Turnover £170.4m (£140.7m)
Net final dividend 5p making 9.1p (8p)
Share price 380p, down 28p
Yield 3.4%

was in the United States where strong growth from both pharmaceuticals and consumer products boosted trading profits from the Americas by 35 per cent to £50.6m.

Aquafresh, which has expensively carved itself a 12 per cent share of the United States toothpaste market in the two years since it was launched, moved from losses into profits for the first time. Other mature consumer products, such as Brylcreem did well, and there was also some benefit from new acquisitions.

The only black spot in the US was the Jovan cosmetics business which, in common with the rest of the industry, faced difficult trading conditions.

Worldwide, the consumer products side of the group overtook pharmaceuticals in providing the greater part of the group's growth.

On the pharmaceuticals side, products which have been on the market for several years, such as the antibiotic Amoxil and appetite-control drug Fastin, had another year of exceptionally strong growth.

Deadline for Fitch Lovell takeover bid extended

By Our Financial Staff

The chances of a bid for Fitch Lovell from Linford receded last night.

Under the rules of the City Panel on Takeovers and Mergers, Linford had to make an offer within three weeks of gaining clearance for the bid from the Monopolies Commission. This deadline expired at midnight last night.

But yesterday afternoon it appeared that Linford had pressed the panel to extend the deadline, and was supported in its application for an extension by the potential victim, Fitch Lovell.

The panel agreed to the extension rather than risk being

embarrassed by insisting that its rules were obeyed. Had it pressed Linford to make an offer or withdraw, Linford could have legitimately made a bid at a desecratory level - say, 10p, just to keep its options open.

Fitch Lovell is believed to have supported the plan for the deadline to be extended, because it did not want Linford to be provoked into making a new bid, in which it wanted to gain more time to complete the sale of the Key Markets supermarkets chain, which is the subject of an auction between Linford and Safeway, the American group.

Sharp rise in company liquidity

By Our Economics Correspondent

hard-pressed manufacturing sector.

Industry needs high levels of liquidity - easily realisable short-term assets - in a recovery to finance the costs of higher production, including extra stocks, overtime payments and so on. The latest improvement, which is likely to reflect higher profits in the first quarter, is

thus a good omen.

The Department of Industry survey of 200 of Britain's biggest companies, published in *British Business* today, shows that the liquidity ratio (total current assets as a percentage of total current liabilities) rose to 101 in the first quarter of 1983 from 81 in the last quarter of 1982.

Marathon consortium to secure 5,000 oil jobs

£1,700m investment for N Sea

By John Lawless

A consortium led by Marathon Oil yesterday committed itself to spending up to £1.7bn on its second North Sea field - in a move that will bring substantial orders for UK companies and secure 5,000 much-needed oil industry jobs.

The opening up of North Brae, located in block 16/7A, about 155 miles off Scotland's north-east coast, will see equipment being installed in 1987.

The start-up of production the following year will herald a new era in the North Sea production.

North Brae's 200 million barrels of reserves represent the first gas condensate field. More such fields will come into production later. The extremely light crude oil will be pumped

to the platform using the gas with which it is mixed - with the gas being pumped straight back into the sealed wells. "It will effectively be put back into storage, not to be tapped for nine years," a Marathon spokesman said yesterday.

The process involves having a lot more processing and production facilities on the platform itself.

That makes the investment in equipment that much more significant than on a conventional field. Marathon expects to spend at least 70 per cent of its development funds on its equipment made in the UK.

It has allowed £1bn as the minimum capital cost, but expects inflation over-runs to bite into a contingency sum of £500m.

Another £200m has been allocated for the eventually required gas recovery facilities, which should come on stream in 1995.

Marathon has a 38 per cent stake in the consortium which has developed the adjoining South Brae field. It is due to go into production in late July, from reserves of 300 million barrels.

Placid Oil Co (UK) and Occidental Petroleum (Caledonia) announced yesterday that agreement has been reached for a group of companies headed by Occidental to jointly work "farm in" Placid's interest in Block 16-12A in the United Kingdom sector of the North Sea.

Gilt offer finds few takers despite earlier market rally

Financial Staff

The Government's new £1,000m gilt offering was heavily undersubscribed at yesterday's tender. The Bank of England announced that applications for the 10 1/4 per cent Treasury convertible stock 1987 were allotted in full at the £96.25 minimum tender price. Market sources suggested that less than £100m had been taken up.

Although the gilts market rallied modestly yesterday morning after the overnight rise in United States bond markets, dealers said the new stock was still expensive, judged either as a short or a long.

Investors were not prepared to pay a premium for the conversion option - a device the Government has been using to avoid crowding out industry from the long bond market.

However, dealers expected some switching today in to the

from other convert-

ing gilts were still

had to gains of about

£3 yesterday after being

higher at one stage.

How a normal reaction

to less big rise, the gilts

market becomes more

cautious and the prospect

for US and the pound.

How a normal reaction

to less big rise, the gilts

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fears that the Federal Reserve may tighten credit.

In light trading because of holidays in some European centres, sterling also met some profit-taking, falling 70 points to \$1.5835 against the dollar and 351/4 pennings to DM 4.0225 against the German currency. Its trade-weighted value slipped 0.6 to 86.8.

The pound's rapid climb of recent weeks was reflected in a sharp increase in Britain's official gold and foreign currency reserves in May. They jumped by an underlying £233m, after taking account of new foreign borrowing and repayments, suggesting that the authorities sold a substantial amount of sterling on the foreign exchange markets.

The increase in reserves, which follows a \$166m rise in April, was rather more than the City had expected.

City Comment

Faulty logic on M1

Markets claim sophistication but often practise simplification. The present Wall Street obsession with weekly M1 figures, hardly a reliable aggregate, has almost convinced everybody that American interest rates and the dollar must rise. But the logic is accepted uncritically.

First, is the notion that a faster rising M1 necessarily means more inflation. Vulgar monetarism of this kind is justly treated with widespread scepticism these days.

Part of the Federal Reserve's problem is that it knows the situation is very complicated while the markets insist on treating it as very simple.

The second assumption is that even if the money supply is growing faster than can be accommodated by the expansion of the economy, and even if that alone will aggravate inflation, the only solution is to raise interest rates.

On the contrary, monetarist logic allows that a money supply swelling faster than underlying economic activity can be cut without harming growth and therefore without recourse to interest rates measures. It is almost as though the markets are wishing for higher interest rates, the very thing they do not want.

Indeed, if the market fog is lifted for a moment, one can respectably argue that the dollar should depreciate.

The American trade deficit will be huge again this year and the fundamentals for the yen and deutsche mark, although perhaps not for sterling, look sound in the second half of the year.

It would be in the spirit of Williamsburg for Wall Street to look at the American economy as a whole and not as a muddle of monetary movements.

Harrisons & Crosfield

PLC
SUMMARY OF RESULTS

for the year 31st December 1982 (Subject to Audit)

	1982 £'000	1981 £'000
Group profit before interest taxation	59,093	57,295
Group profit before taxation	44,467	47,235
Group profit after taxation	29,945	26,328
Earnings for ordinary shareholders (before extraordinary items and exchange differences)	27,573	22,797
Extraordinary items	73,901	-
Attributable to ordinary shareholders	107,841	30,147
Earnings per ordinary share	44.3p	37.1p
Dividends per ordinary share	31p	28p

PLANTATIONS

Operating Profit £21.4m (1981 £25.4m)

The highlight of 1982 was the satisfactory outcome of negotiations with Malaysia on Bumiputera participation in Harrison's Malaysian Estates PLC, which yielded proceeds before costs of £1 billion. The successor company, Harrissons Malaysian Plantations, in which we have a 30% interest, and which began production of profits during the year, has agreed to buy Barlow Plantations Sdn. Bhd. This purchase will in part be financed by a reissue of which we have agreed to take up our share amounting to £1 million.

London Sumatra Plantations PLC had another satisfactory year with higher crops mitigating the fall in prices.

CHEMICALS AND INDUSTRIAL

Operating Profit £5.4m (1981 £10.7m)

Towards the end of 1982 the Linatex companies in North America were acquired. Along with nearly all chemical companies, our operations suffered a setback. Useful progress was made in restructuring and making economies. We are ready to take full advantage of current more buoyant conditions which have, in recent months, produced significantly better profits.

EXTRAORDINARY ITEMS

Surplus after taxation on the part realisation of investment in Harrissons Malaysian Estates PLC and associated transactions.

	1982 £'000	1981 £'000
Total shareholders funds	447,262	266,334
Total funds invested	499,442	348,320

Ordinary dividend

A final dividend of 23.5p per share is recommended by the Board, making a total for 1982 of 31p per share, this being 10.7% upon the total dividend of 28p per share for 1981.

Prospects

Trading profits for the opening months of 1983 show strong growth particularly in the United Kingdom over the depressed corresponding period of 1982.

The greater overall confidence in the economy is resulting in a better trading environment in a number of areas.

It is too early to predict the outcome for the whole year but 1983 has started well.



AB ELECTROLUX

Improved results anticipated for 1983

At the Annual General Meeting of AB Electrolux, held in Stockholm on Thursday, 26th May 1983, a dividend of S.Kr. 9.00 per share was approved (S.Kr. 8.00 last year) payable 7th June 1983. In his address to the Shareholders, the Managing Director, Mr. Anders Scharp, said he anticipated considerably improved results for 1983. He continued:-

"1983 has got off to a good start: turnover for the first four months is 20 per cent up on the same period last year, acquired and sold companies being taken into account. Results have shown a very positive development and the first quarter's are considerably up on the previous year. This has been caused by market developments in certain areas, an improved position regarding costs and utilisation of capacity, and lower net financial expense. Market developments in the USA have been particularly positive with increased sales volumes as a result. On the other hand no upswing has been evident in Europe with the exception of Great Britain where the market has improved."

Vacuum cleaners, white goods, absorption refrigerators, sewing machines and industrial products show a healthy upturn in results while chain saws and commercial services have remained at high level. Graeages has turned a first quarter 1982 loss to a profit in 1983.

Provided that present trends continue - an upswing in world trade, sinking inflation and interest rates within the OECD, stable oil-prices etc, we anticipate considerably improved results with a higher yield in 1983."

Chief Executive Officer Goesta Bystedt described Electrolux' capital needs. He stated that the objective is to maintain the equity/assets ratio at 25 per cent, which is sufficient for the structure and risk-spreading of the company.

"Bearing in mind the target equity/assets ratio, we anticipate being able to achieve an annual expansion of 15 per cent. At this rate of expansion, there will not now be any new share issues either in the USA or Sweden."

The Group's dividend policy remains unchanged and means that the dividend will follow the growth of equity capital. During the past ten years, the dividend has increased by 14 per cent per annum."

Messrs. Goesta Bystedt, Harry Eriksson, Nils Holgersson, Sven Olving, Jacob Palmstierna, Anders Scharp, Peter Wallenberg and Hans Werthen were re-elected to the Board of Directors. Mr. Edward L. Palmer, Citibank N.A., New York, U.S.A. was elected as a new member of the Board.

Mrs. Birgit Malmsten-Skirt and Claes Dahlback, Managing Director of AB Investor were elected Deputy Members of the Board. Mr. Bo Abrahamsson did not stand for re-election.

Messrs. Rolf Karlsson and Hans Soederqvist continued as members of the Board and Messrs. Per-Olof Edman and Runo Eriksson as Deputy Members representing the employees.

Electrolux shares are quoted on the London Stock Exchange and the price listed daily in this paper. Copies of the Annual Report for 1982 in English will be available about mid-June from Haring Brothers & Co., Limited, 1 Bishopsgate, London EC2N 4AE.

Electrolux

The Directors of
Bankers Trust Company Limited
are pleased to announce that

Anthony G. Bucklan

formerly of Guardian Royal Exchange Assure plc
has joined the Board as of 1st June 1983
as Managing Director of

Bankers Trust Company Limited



AUSTRIAN ELECTRICITY

U.S.\$15,000,000 6 1/2% Guaranteed Bonds 1981

S.G. WARBURG & CO. LTD., announce that the redemption instalment of U.S.\$500,000 due 1st July, 1983 has been met by purchases in the market to the nominal value of U.S.\$500,000 and by a drawing of Bonds to the nominal value of U.S.\$500,000.

The distinctive numbers of the Bonds, drawn in the presence of a Notary Public, are as follows:-

11 to 342	790 to 796	798 to 801	803 to 804	807 to 816
819 to 827	838 to 841	843 to 856	858 to 863	865 to 868
872 to 883	885 to 890	892 to 900	902 to 907	909 to 910
1025 to 1029	1034 to 1039	1042 to 1050	1052 to 1057	1059 to 1060
1063 to 1100	1101 to 1151	1153 to 1158	1160 to 1165	1167 to 1170
1174 to 1180	1182 to 1186	1188 to 1190	1192 to 1195	1197 to 1200
1202 to 1205	1207 to 1209	1211 to 1213	1215 to 1217	1219 to 1225
1227 to 1229	1231 to 1232	1234 to 1236	1238 to 1239	1241 to 1242
1244 to 1246	1248 to 1249	1251 to 1252	1254 to 1255	1257 to 1258
1260 to 1262	1264 to 1265	1267 to 1268	1270 to 1271	1273 to 1274
1276 to 1277	1279 to 1280	1282 to 1283	1285 to 1286	1288 to 1289
1291 to 1292	1294 to 1295	1297 to 1298	1300 to 1301	1303 to 1304
1306 to 1307	1309 to 1310	1312 to 1313	1315 to 1316	1318 to 1319
1321 to 1322	1324 to 1325	1327 to 1328	1330 to 1331	1333 to 1334
1336 to 1337	1339 to 1340	1342 to 1343	1345 to 1346	1348 to 1349
1351 to 1352	1354 to 1355	1357 to 1358	1360 to 1361	1363 to 1364
1366 to 1367	1369 to 1370	1372 to 1373	1375 to 1376	1378 to 1379

On 1st July, 1983 there will be due and payable upon each Bond drawn for redemption, the principal amount thereof together with accrued interest to said date at the office of:-

S.G. WARBURG & CO. LTD.,
30, Gresham Street, London, EC2P 2EB.

or one of the other paying agents named on the Bonds.
Interest will cease to accrue on the Bonds called for redemption on or after 1st July, 1983 and Bonds so presented for payment must have attached all coupons maturing after that date.

U.S.\$2,700,000 nominal amount of Bonds will remain outstanding after 1st July, 1983.

The following Bonds previously drawn for redemption on the dates stated below have not as yet been presented for payment:-

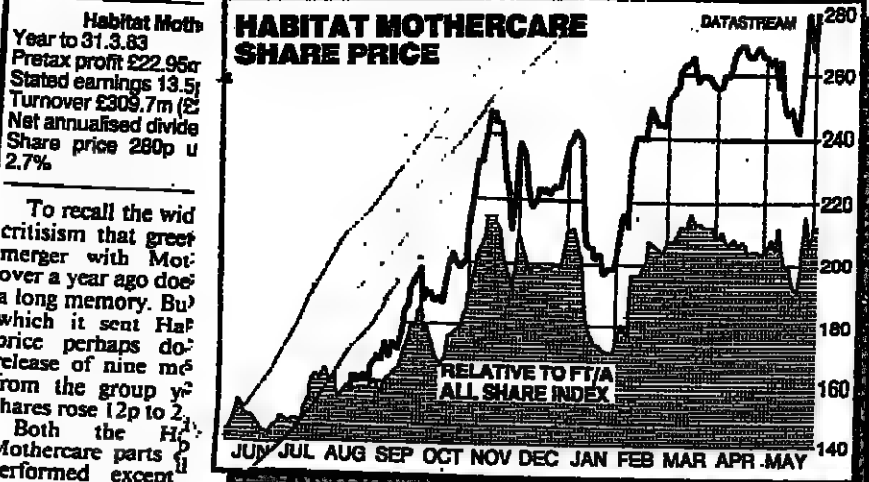
Due 1st July, 1981	2130 to 2149	2227 to 2500
Due 1st July, 1982	13920	13921 to 13937
Due 1st July, 1983	14783	14832 to 14835

30, Gresham Street, London, EC2P 2EB

2nd June, 1983

INVESTORS' NOTEBOOK • edited by Sandy McLachlan

Haat regains its premium rating



Habitat Mothercare's share price has risen 14 per cent last year. If that formula can be successfully applied to Mothercare, is the still nascent Habitat business in the States and to the newly-acquired confidence will be more than justified.

The last couple of months have seen a quickening of the pace of the revitalising of the retail environment at Mothercare. So far, however, only six stores have been revamped out of the 40 that the group promises to have completed by September and the new merchandising policy is yet to be reflected in the shelves. Though the City must wait until next Autumn to see whether it will all work, brokers are plainly more optimistic about the outcome that they once were. Habitat has regained the premium rating it had before the merger.

The original Habitat side of the group continues to go from strength to strength. Even stripping out the effect of newly-opened stores, its volume sales

profits of £2.6m against the £2m loss recorded in the previous year.

Much of the improvement can be traced back to the reorganization of UBM's businesses under the guidance of Mr Roger Pinnington, who took over as chief executive early last year.

The new slimline structure of 6,000 employees has 2,000 fewer staff than two years ago. During the last 12 months 500 jobs disappeared as loss-making depots were closed at Croydon and Barking. The full benefits also accrued from the closure of the Derby and Bradford depots, which were charged to the previous year's accounts.

This time round, UBM has shown extraordinary profits of £1m from property sales compared with the heavy £3.3m provision for closures and redundancies the previous year. However, the most startling effect of the newly efficient organization has been on the level of borrowings, which are down from a 1982 peak of £30m to £13m today (about 22 per cent of shareholders' funds).

The new confidence in the group's future is shown by the payment of an improved final dividend of 1.2p per share, making 2.2p for the year against 2p last time. Significantly, last year's dividend was paid from reserves. This time the improved dividend leaves £1m to be carried into the future.

UBM, Group, one of Britain's largest builders' merchants, has continued the dramatic turnaround first indicated at the interim stage. Full year results to February 28 show that the group managed pre-tax

Electronic Rentals trims dividend

By Our Financial Staff

Electronic Rentals has cut its dividend by a quarter for the year to the end of March. This comes after a drop in pre-tax profits to £12.1m from £14.6m the previous year, after taking into account losses of £2.4m on discontinued camping and leisure activities.

Colour television rental in Britain remains a problem with a decline in the number of subscribers after the ending of the hire purchase and rental regulations last July.

Paradoxically, success in placing video recorders and the need to replace older television sets on rental has led to a substantial increase in the depreciation charge - up by £10.4m to just under £60m.

The decline in the number of colour television rentals was highlighted in the group's interim statement and has continued.

Income from video recorders made up for the loss of income from colour television sets to the extent that rental income overall rose by 5 per cent in Britain, but marketing videos in the face of heavy competition has been expensive.

The full cost of closing the camping and leisure activity was £7.3m, and the deduction of this from the group's reserves was a significant factor in the group's decision to cut the dividend.

The total dividend for the financial year is 4.617p gross, against the 6.1567p in 1981/82.

The company says that a number of adverse factors remain. "Many of the measures taken to improve performance in the high street will of course detract from short term results."

Nevertheless, the company believes that for the new, lower dividend level can be maintained. It also hopes that it will benefit from cable television developments.

AEStpones payout a/overseas loss

By Our Financial Staff

AE, the ug group suffered heavy overseas activities months to end March. It incurred a pre-tax loss of £2.8m in the half year, half of which was provided for in the 1982 accounts.

Mr John Collyer, chairman, reports that trading conditions were particularly difficult in the three months to December 31 1982. The group's British activities made a pre-tax profit after redundancy and related costs in the half year, but this was marred by overseas difficulties.

The group expects to increase market share by higher productivity and improved products, but the chairman gave a warning "not to expect any real change to the economic climate."

Investment sale boosts Harrisons dividend

By Victor Felstead

Harrisons & Crossfield Year to 31.12.82: Pre-tax profit, £44.46m (£47.23m); Stated earnings, £44.3p (£47.1p); Turnover, £912m (£814m); Net total dividend, 31.2p (£28.0p).

With net earnings being boosted by the sale of an investment, London-based Harrisons and Crossfield is lifting its total dividend, on a gross basis, from 40p to 44.29p a share.

In 1982, total operating profit rose from £52.85m to £54.46m, with associated companies contributing £4.62m - slightly higher than 1981's £4.44m. Thus, group profit before interest and tax has risen from £57.29m to £59.09m, but interest payable has jumped from £10.06 to £14.62m.

The result is that group pre-tax profits have slipped from

Granville & Co Limited.

(Formerly M. J. H. Nightingale & Co. Limited)

27/28 Lovat Lane, London EC3R 8EB Telephone 01-621 1212

The Over-the-Counter Market

1982/83	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	Open	Dividend	Yield %	P/E	Price	Yield %
142	120	120	Asa Brit Ind Ord	135	-	6.4	4.7	7.9	10.3		
158	117	117	Asa Brit Ind CULS	152	-	10.0	6.6	-	-		
74	57	57	Aisling Group	65	-	6.1	9.4	18.6	18.6		
46	26	26	Armitage & Rhodes	26	-	4.3	16.5	2.9	5.1		
348	197	197	Bardon Hill	348	+3	11.4	3.3	14.6	18.4		
150	100	100	CC1 1.10% Conv Pref	150	+1	15.7	10.4	-	-		
270	210	210	Clivio Group	212	-	17.2	8.2	-	-		
86	45	45	Debonair Services	45	-	6.0	13.3	3.0	8.0		
97 1/2	77	77	Frank Russell	96	-	-	-	8.0	8.6		
96 7/8	73 1/2	73 1/2	Frank Russell Pr Ord	94 1/2	-	8.7	9.2	10.5	11.3		
83	61	61	Frederick Parker	64	-	7.1	11.5	3.9	6.2		
53	34	34	George Blair	34	-	-	-	5.9	12.3		
100	74	74	Ind Prec Castings	75	-	7.3	9.7	9.6	12.1		
178	100	100	Isis Coav Pref	178	+1	15.7	10.4	-	-		
162	94	94	Jackson Group	162	+2	9.0	5.5	4.3	8.3		
227	111	111	James Burrough	227	-	9.6	4.2	16.6	18.5		
260	148	148	Robert Jenkins	151	-	20.0	13.2	1.7	24.0		
83	54	54	Santomas "A"	67	-	5.7	8.5	8.7	10.5		
167	110	110	Torkley & Castle	112	-	11.4	10.1	5.0	8.6		
29	21	21	Unilock Holdings	26	-	0.6	1.8	-	-		
85	64	64	Walker Alexander	68	-	6.4	9.1	4.9	7.0		
265	214	214	W. S. Yeates	264	-1	17.1	6.5	4.1	8.4		

Prices now available on Frettel, page 48146

U.S.\$100,000,000 Guaranteed Floating Rate Notes due 1984

Citicorp Overseas Finance Corporation N.V.

(Incorporated with limited liability in the Netherlands Antilles)

Unconditionally guaranteed by

CITICORP

Notice is hereby given that the Rate of Interest for the first one-month sub-period has been fixed at 9 1/2% per annum and that the interest payable for the first one-month sub-period in respect of U.S.\$10,000 nominal of the Notes will be U.S.\$77.60. This amount will accrue towards the interest payment due August 31, 1983.

June 1, 1983, London
By: Citibank N.A. (CSSI Dept.), Agent Bank **CITIBANK**

U.S.\$250,000,000 Guaranteed Floating Rate Notes Due 1984

Citicorp Overseas Finance Corporation N.V.

(Incorporated with limited liability in the Netherlands Antilles)

Unconditionally guaranteed by

CITICORP

Notice is hereby given that the Rate of Interest has been fixed at 9 1/2% per annum and that the interest payable on the relevant Interest Payment Date, September 2, 1983, against Coupon No. 10, in respect of U.S.\$10,000 nominal of the Notes will be U.S.\$241.18.

June 2, 1983, London
By: Citibank N.A. (CSSI Dept.), Agent Bank **CITIBANK**



Highlights from the statement by the Chairman, Sir Maurice Hodgson:

- Sales exceed £500m for first time.
- Over 70% of products purchased from U.K. manufacturers.
- Effective cost control continues.
- Improved contribution from SavaCentre.

Results (per historical cost convention)	52 weeks to 2nd April 1983 £000	52 weeks to 3rd April 1982 £000	Change %
Sales (inclusive of VAT)			
Merchandise	394,301	366,198	+ 7.7
Food	78,884	78,134	+ 1.0
Restaurant	29,544	27,308	+ 8.2
Total	502,729	471,640	+ 6.6
Sales (exclusive of VAT)	455,684	427,563	+ 6.6
Profit before taxation	48,874	42,562	+14.8
Profit after taxation	27,163	26,797	+ 1.4
Dividends per ordinary share	5.25p	4.75p	
Earnings per ordinary share (historical)	13.2p	13.0p	

BRITISH HOME STORES

سكزا من الاربعين

WALL STREET

[illegible]

securities
 3.83.
 2720,000 (£702,000).
 ga, 5.31p (5.94p).
 0.5m (2.5m).
 0.65p (0.8p).
 National
 1.3.63.
 4.68m (23.82m).
 5.13p (12.0p).
 4m (250.98m).
 3.0p (2.5p).
 Investment Co
 208,000 (£423,000).
 4.0p (4.0p).
 Industries
 H
 3
 2005 (£278,000).
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 Jam
 curr
 18
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 12.82 compared
 12 months.
 Presto
 47p (2.3m).
 State
 72p (1.79p).

Further information can be obtained from the **Little More Company**
of **Tunis, 18 Avenue Mohamed V, Tunis, Tunisia.**

The directors of Thomas Tilling plc (including those who have delegated detailed supervision of this advertisement) have taken all reasonable care to ensure that the facts stated and opinions expressed herein are fair and accurate and each of the directors accepts responsibility accordingly.

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APPOINTMENTS

Promotion for RTZ director

Mr J D Birkin, a director of RTZ and chairman and managing director of Tunnel Holdings, has become deputy chief executive of RTZ.

Mr Mike Blackburn has been made director and chief executive of RTZ.

Mr R D MacLeod has been appointed to the board of directors of the English Association Trust.

Mr David J Watkins has been appointed a director of Kirland-Whittaker.

Sir John Hoskyns has joined the board of directors of McKeech Brotherton. Sir John is a director of International Computers, the Clerical Medical and General Life Assurance Society and AGR Research.

Mr Jasper Meadows Cattermole has been appointed a director of Buckley's Brewery. Mr Henry Whitbread has retired from the board.

Mr A M Bottomley, Mr L I Leigh and Mr J A H M MacKenzie have been made directors of Scottish, English and European Textiles.

Mr Jeff Benson has become a non-executive director of the 600 Group. Mr Ted Goodwin has been appointed a director. Mr Leslie Davies has retired as deputy managing director but will still remain a board member. Mr Percy Levy has retired as a director but will act as consultant on public relations matters.

Mr R E Frame, senior partner Murray and Company has retired but will remain a consultant. Mr M R N Evans has been appointed a senior partner.

Mr Peter Osborne has become a director of Christie's Contemporary Art.

Mr Ron Kirby has been made director of public affairs of the Engineering Council.

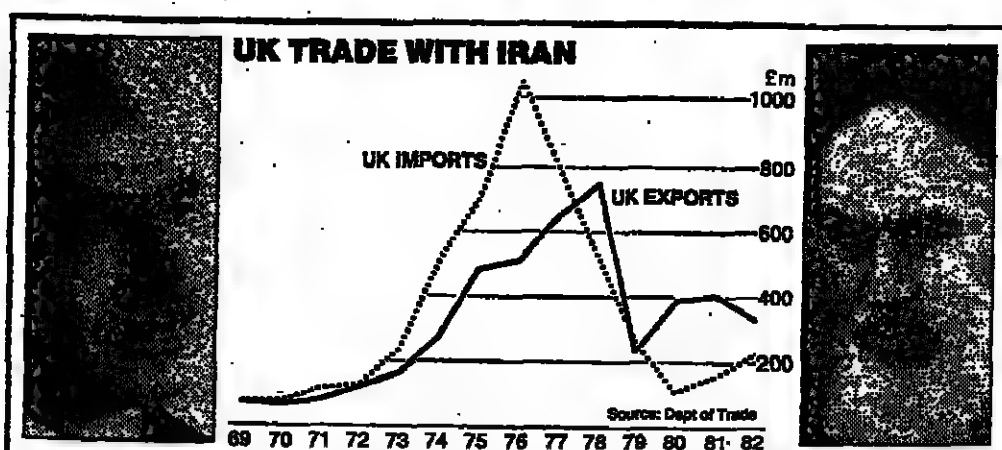
Mr Roger Young has been elected chairman of the City of London branch of the British Institute of Management. Mr Stan Mason has been elected vice-chairman and Mr Michael Orbell honorary treasurer.

Mr John G Silk has been appointed chairman of Hill and Smith Holdings. Mr R Skidmore has become managing director.

Mr Peter Mitchell has been appointed business manager for the industrial process group of Diversey.

John Lawless reports on Iran's sweater-wearing tycoons

The Ayatollah welcomes British businessmen back to Tehran



Ten years ago, seasoned exporters at Tehran's International Trade Fair broke the rule of a lifetime. They forced carrier bags full of expensive, produced, full-colour, Persian-printed brochures on to the youths milling around their stands.

At any other event around the world, the youths would have been knuckle-capped as useless catalogue collectors.

"We've discovered that a 16-year-old with two days growth of beard is likely to be the son of a multi-millionaire, would-be industrialist," one exporter said.

Today, the more awake members of the British export community have discovered something else that the market which collapsed on their overnight three years ago is very much back on its feet again - and their sales are sprinting ahead.

Exports to Iran in the first three months of this year were £144m, a three-fold increase on the first quarter of 1982.

They have got a long way to go before getting anywhere near the real value of the £752m achieved in 1978 (a sales figure which slumped to £232m in 1979 after the Shah's departure).

But every signal suggests that Iran could be the surprise boom market for British exporters in the next two years - just as the Bonanza spot of the past two years, its war-opponents Iraq, seems to be heading into decline.

Talbot has just added 80 workers to the 1,400 employed at Stoke-on-Trent, where 1,100 are directly engaged in building Hillman Hunter car kits for Iran. This year will see shipments approaching record levels of 100,000, under a contract worth £150 per annum.

Two United Kingdom trade missions have been in Iran this year, the first since the Ayatollah Khomeini came to power, and both were delighted with the warmth of their reception.

One from the Birmingham Chamber of Industry, which was over-subscribed within two days of being announced (an unheard of event), returned on Tuesday.

The mission dispelled qualms which many firms have about going back into Iran, having

been active there during the time of the Shah.

Its leader was Mr Terry Rochford, CKN International marketing manager for the Middle East, who lived in Tehran for two years in the mid-seventies, running his company's office there.

"They don't hold any grudges," he said. "I have not been back since 1978, but they did not write me off as someone who hadn't done business there since."

"It is a country of 40m people that now has a much more realistic appraisal of its real needs. They no longer talk about grandiose schemes, but about things like housing."

"There is a move away from large turnkey projects being handed by overseas contractors - although they have also made it clear that, if their own design consultants and contractors cannot handle something, they hold a list of reputable international firms."

Although all 15 mission members were kept busy from 6am to 10pm each day, Mr Rochford says that he wished he could have stayed another week, and will be going back.

The main message they brought back was that, with the United States, Russia and France out in the cold, the prospects for Britain look even better. Even Japan, said to have been blackballing Iran to go below Opec prices for its oil, is not in good colour.

But there is no doubt about the level of competition. "The hotels are full of foreign businessmen," recalled Mr Derek Bullivant, who acted as secretary for the mission. "But

the president of the Iran Chamber of Commerce was at pains to stress that there is a new regime there which is prepared to trade on an even-handed basis with the rest of the world. He asked us to take that message back to Britain."

Orders are not orders until a letter of credit arrives, but one mission member was assured of £250,000 worth of business, with "much, much more to come."

Five or six trade associations are getting government subsidies of £375 to £400 to go to September's international exhibition in Tehran (the signal that the United Kingdom was truly welcome again coming at the fair last September, when the Iranians themselves hoisted the Union Jack among the flags of all nations taking part - and when the "Death to" chants for the United States and other enemies did not include Britain).

Individual companies are not going to get a British Overseas Trade Board bailout. But the organizers of the private sector showing, Hammond International and Pickfords, have taken bookings from five companies since announcing it only two weeks ago.

Even the Export Credit Guarantee Department came quietly back on to short-term cover last October, having paid out £180m in claims following the flight of the middle class entrepreneurs and traders who had fiddled the economy through the boom years of the Shah.

"The scruffier he is, the more important he is going to be," said one French exporter of the Iranians he has been negotiating

with during the past three years. "He'll wear a sweater and not a suit."

"Many of the senior men you are invited, invitations can be fixed by an eight-strong and extremely active British Inter-Section which is officially looked after, but is not actually in, the Swedish embassy. Taxi drivers get infuriated when they end up trying to drop you at a building with a blue-and-yellow flag on it."

Visas, or rather the getting of them, is a bind. They take up to 12 weeks to arrive - although Lloyds Bank International's Mr Allan Linger got one in record time last month. The Iranians had let it be known that they would like to see a two-way adviser on the Birmingham mission (it is easier to import, they explained, if we can show that we are also exporting). He joined the party just two days late.

For its part, the BIS may have lost most of its files - burn during an invasion by revolutionary guards - but not its sense of humour. A cartoon in one of its offices bears the caption: "They came in over that wall. Elmer made them a cup of tea. And they went out over that wall."

The BS is headed by Mr Nicholas Barrington, formerly ambassador in Cairo and soon

to take up the same position in Lebanon.

He does not have contacts with high-level ministers. But he knows the people who make things work in numerous organizations (and is anxious to get two sets of catalogues from companies, which he will guide into the right hands).

Most exporters have economic rules-of-thumb. Do the local matches strike? Does the tonic taste more like Epsom salts?

With the liberalization of imports late last year, a centralized purchasing structure was imposed. But it has not sufficed to trade in the way that similar setups have elsewhere. Indeed, within a few months of it coming into force, British exports had soared to £50m in December alone.

West Germany tops the sales league with 10 per cent, followed by Japan (even though it has been discriminated against recently for not quickly returning to complete a major project), with 7 per cent. France trails with 3 per cent.

The Ayatollah may have made a triumphant return courtesy of an Francer jumbo, but French support for Iraq has dulled their sales.

Is five per cent worth getting fussed about? Well, Iran has pushed oil output back up to more than 2 million barrels a day - and is selling it. It has no foreign debts. And with well-identified sales areas (strictly excluding consumer goods, of course), it spent \$15 on imports last year.

This year, all the trade analysts are confident, it will spend \$20 billion.

Details of sectors in which sales can be made are available from the Department of Trade in London (telephone 01-215 7877). Its specialists have several free booklets on offer, and a list of firms offering free market advice.

WatWest published an economic guide in February, and the bank's senior executive responsible for Iran is Mr D G Suckling (telephone 01-520 5555, ext 88536). For details of private sales at September's Tehran fair, telephone Mr Andrew MacLeane (0603 660277).

"Economic notebook"

Sterling and threats to real economy

"All our policies are designed to get inflation down, to restore home money. If the exchange rate rises again then inflation is more likely to come down."

These words of Mrs Thatcher should strike a chill in the heart of the staunch industrialist, just when he has convinced himself that economic recovery is on the way.

The Prime Minister was not necessarily making a statement of intent, but the temptation is only too obvious for her to use the pound's new strength to renew vigorously her crusade against inflation.

Since its nadir in March, the pound has climbed by an extraordinary 12 per cent against other leading currencies, a third of this since the election announcement three weeks ago. The City consensus is for the pound to strengthen further as the hope of a Conservative victory is growing.

This has done wonders for inflation prospects. Government forecasts of 6 per cent inflation this year, and into next, far from being hopelessly optimistic as many City analysts insisted, now look distinctly on the high side as imports have cheapened.

But the consequences for the real economy could be dire. When the pound fell out of bed last November, signs of relief were heard all round, in the Treasury as much as in industry. After three long years of gross overvaluation - in terms of Britain's ability to compete in world markets - sterling was at last approaching realistic parities against its principal international rivals.

The impact of the lower pound on export orders, business confidence, production and profits was swift and substantial. All the more reason, then, to fear the consequences of reverse.

Sterling is now only 4 per cent below last November's level and almost 10 per cent higher than at Budget time. Against European currencies - notably the Deutsche mark - the pound is overvalued by about 30 to 35 per cent, according to Mr Gary Davies, of stockbrokers Simon

and Coates. "The effective rate is already at a level which could seriously endanger the economic upswing," Mr Davies says, and his view is shared by an increasingly anxious Treasury.

A strong pound will hit exports just as the recovery in world trade is beginning to appear, and divert even more home demand to cheaper imports. And it will make it much harder to improve profit margins cut to the bone by the severe recession. The impact on business confidence and on plans to invest, produce and create jobs - could be devastating.

On rule of thumb figuring the 10 per cent appreciation since the Budget could knock 0.5 per cent off growth over the next 12 months (put by the Treasury 2.5 per cent), and more in future years. This is enough to make the difference between unemployment stabilising, with economic and political consequences that are frightening to predict.

Mrs Thatcher is not easily frightened. But she is fond of facts. And some fascinating calculations by Mr Walter Eltis, of Oxford University, suggest that unless growth is fast enough to bring unemployment down, thereby boosting tax revenues and reducing spending on social security, Mrs Thatcher has no chance of redeeming her pledges to cut taxes.

On the contrary, Mr Eltis says: "If further years of potential growth are thrown away after 1983 with the object of reducing inflation to zero, taxes will have to rise sharply from their already high rates."

A re-elected Mrs Thatcher will be told by her officials that interest rates should be cut to keep sterling in bounds. Despite recent poor money supply figures financial conditions generally - including the strong pound - look tight, they will argue. The need for Mrs Thatcher to deliver on growth, jobs and taxes after four lean years - and to hasten more slowly towards her goal of price stability - is likely to tip the balance in their favour.

Frances Williams

1982/83			1983/84			1984/85			1985/86			1986/87			1987/88			1988/89			1989/90			1990/91			1991/92			1992/93			1993/94			1994/95			1995/96			1996/97			1997/98			1998/99			1999/00			2000/01			2001/02			2002/03			2003/04			2004/05			2005/06			2006/07			2007/08			2008/09			2009/10			2010/11			2011/12			2012/13			2013/14			2014/15			2015/16			2016/17			2017/18			2018/19			2019/20			2020/21			2021/22			2022/23			2023/24			2024/25			2025/26			2026/27			2027/28			2028/29			2029/30			2030/31			2031/32			2032/33			2033/34			2034/35			2035/36			2036/37			2037/38			2038/39			2039/40			2040/41			2041/42			2042/43			2043/44			2044/45			2045/46			2046/47			2047/48			2048/49			2049/50			2050/51			2051/52			2052/53			2053/54			2054/55			2055/56			2056/57			2057/58			2058/59			2059/60			2060/61			2061/62			2062/63			2063/64			2064/65			2065/66			2066/67			2067/68			2068/69			2069/70			2070/71			2071/72			2072/73			2073/74			2074/75			2075/76			2076/77			2077/78			2078/79			2079/80			2080/81			2081/82			2082/83			2083/84			2084/85			2085/86			2086/87			2087/88			2088/89			2089/90			2090/91			2091/92			2092/93			2093/94			2094/95			2095/96			2096/97			2097/98			2098/99			2099/00			2100/01			2101/02			2102/03			2103/04			2104/05			2105/06			2106/07			2107/08			2108/09			2109/10			2110/11			2111/12			2112/13			2113/14			2114/15			2115/16			2116/17			2117/18			2118/19			2119/20			2120/21			2121/22			2122/23			2123/24			2124/25			2125/26			2126/27			2127/28			2128/29			2129/30			2130/31			2131/32			2132/33			2133/34			2134/35			2135/36			2136/37			2137/38			2138/39			2139/40			2140/41			2141/42			2142/43			2143/44			2144/45			2145/46			2146/47			2147/48			2148/49			2149/50			2150/51			2151/52			2152/53			2153/54			2154/55			2155/56			2156/57			2157/58			2158/59			2159/60			2160/61			2161/62			2162/63			2163/64			2164/65			2165/66			2166/67			2167/68			2168/69			2169/70			2170/71			2171/72			2172/73			2173/74			2174/75			2175/76			2176/77			2177/78			2178/79			2179/80			2180/81			2181/82			2182/83			2183/84			2184/85			2185/86			2186/87			2187/88			2188/89			2189/90			2190/91			2191/92			2192/93			2193/94			2194/95			2195/96			2196/97			2197/98			2198/99			2199/00			2200/01			2201/02			2202/03			2203/04			2204/05			2205/06			2206/07			2207/08			2208/09			2209/10			2210/11			2211/12			2212/13			2213/14			2214/15			2215/16			2216/17			2217/18			2218/19			2219/20			2220/21			2221/22			2222/23			2223/24			2224/25			2225/26			2226/27			2227/28			2228/29			2229/30			2230/31			2231/32			2232/33			2233/34			2234/35			2235/36			2236/37			2237/38			2238/39			2239/40			2240/41			2241/42			2242/43			2243/44			2244/45			2245/46			2246/47			2247/48			2248/49			2249/50			2250/51			2251/52			2252/53			2253/54			2254/55			2255/56			2256/57			2257/58			2258/59			2259/60			2260/61			2261/62			2262/63			2263/64			2264/65			2265/66			2266/67			2267/68			2268/69			2269/70			2270/71			2271/72			2272/73			2273/74			2274/75			2275/76			2276/77			2277/78			2278/79			2279/80			2280/81			2281/82			2282/83			2283/84			2284/85			2285/86			2286/87			2287/88			2288/89			2289/90			2290/91			2291/92			2292/93			2293/94			2294/95			2295/96			2296/97			2297/98			2298/99			2299/00			2300/01			2301/02			2302/03			2303/04			2304/05			2305/06			2306/07			2307/08			2308/09			2309/10			2310/11			2311/12			2312/13			2313/14			2314/15			2315/16			2316/17			2317/18			2318/19			2319/20			2320/21			2321/22			2322/23			2323/24			2324/25			2325/26			2326/27			2327/28			2328/29			2329/30			2330/31			2331/32			2332/33			2333/34			2334/35			2335/36			2336/37			2337/38			2338/39			2339/40			2340/41			2341/42			2342/43			2343/44			2344/45			2345/46			2346/47			2347/48			2348/49			2349/50			2350/51			2351/52			2352/53			2353/54			2354/55			2355/56			2356/57			2357/58			2358/59			2359/60			2360/61			2361/62			2362/63			2363/64			2364/65			2365/66			2366/67			2367/68			2368/69			2369/70			2370/71			2371/72			2372/73			2373/74			2374/75			2375/76			2376/77			2377/78			2378/79			2379/80			2380/81			2381/82			2382/83			2383/84			2384/85			2385/86			2386/87			2387/88			2388/89			2389/90			2390/91			2391/92			2392/93			2393/94			2394/95			2395/96			2396/97			2397/98			2398/99			2399/00			2400/01			2401/02			2402/03			2403/04			2404/05			2405/06			2406/07			2407/08			2408/09			2409/10			2410/11			2411/12			2412/13			2413/14			2414/15			2415/16			2416/17			2417/18			2418/19			2419/20			2420/21			2421/22			2422/23			2423/24			2424/25			2425/26			2426/27			2427/28			2428/29			2429/30			2430/31			2431/32			2432/33			2433/34			2434/35			2435/36			2436/37			2437/38			2438/39			2439/40			2440/41			2441/42			2442/43			2443/44			2444/45			2445/46			2446/47			2447/48			2448/49			2449/50			2450/51			2451/52			2452/53			2453/54			2454/55			2455/56			2456/57			2457/58			2458/59			2459/60			2460/61			2461/62			2462/63			2463/64			2464/65			2465/66			2466/67			2467/68			2468/69			2469/70			2470/71			2471/72			2472/73			2473/74			2474/75			2475/76			2476/77			2477/78			2478/79			2479/80			2480/81			2481/82			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RUGBY UNION Boot that carries Lions' hopes

Even Iain Cameron & Brian Church

The British Lions are going to have a good chance of winning the 1983 tour of South Africa, says Iain Cameron, who has been in charge of the team since they left Cardiff in 1979. Cameron, who is now a coach at the Welsh Rugby Union, says the team is in good form and has a good chance of winning the tour. He says the team is in good form and has a good chance of winning the tour. He says the team is in good form and has a good chance of winning the tour.

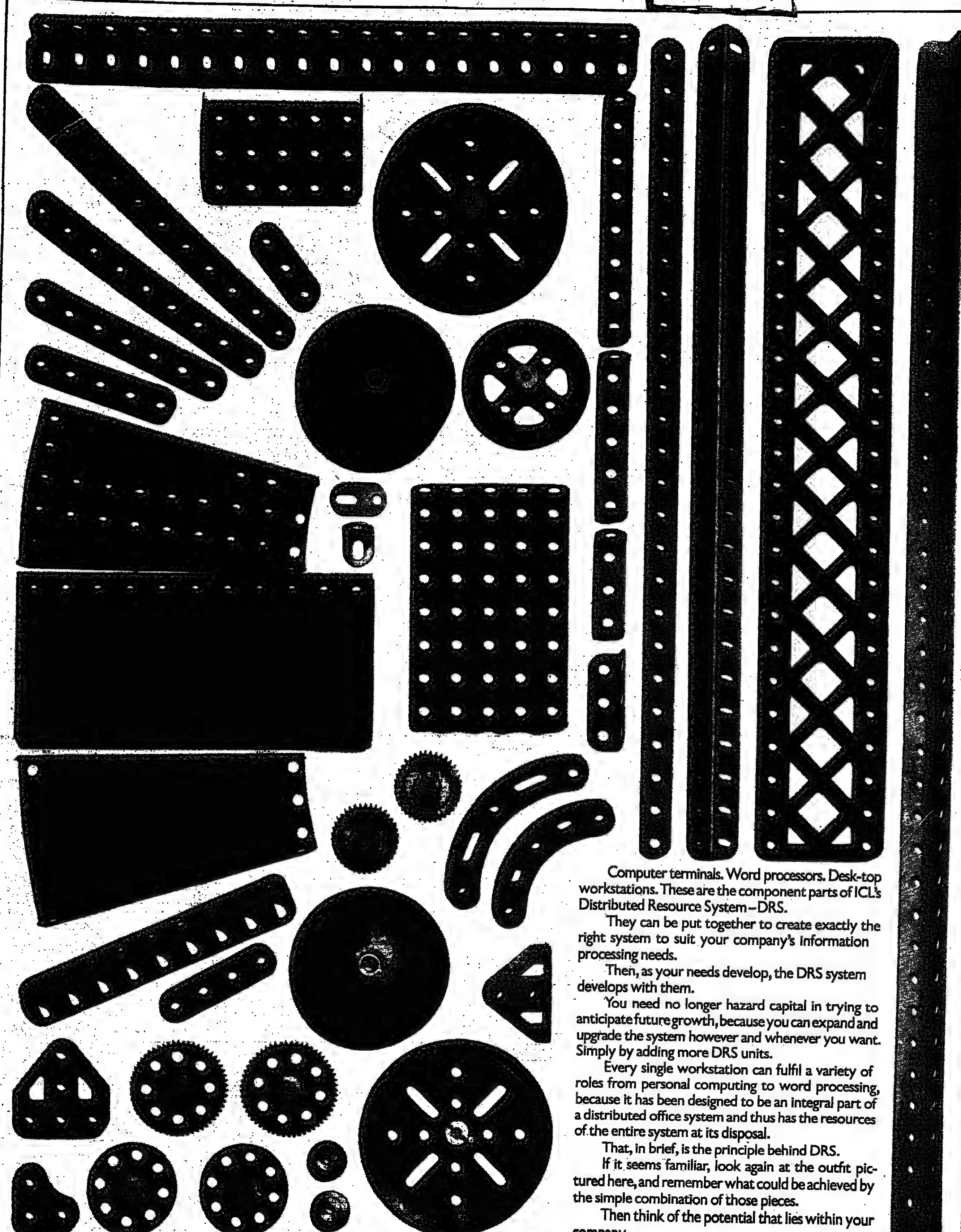
A referee from a hard school

Mr. P. J. ...

BASKETBALL

Jessie's return sets an early task for Taylor

...



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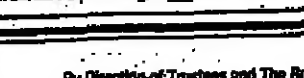
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Averell Harriman helps to bridge Cold War divide

From Richard Owen, Moscow

Mr Yuri Andropov, the Soviet party leader, yesterday met Mr Averell Harriman, the veteran American Kremlin watcher, and told him the Soviet Union was "ready and interested in a joint search" for initiatives with the United States which would make the present situation easier. The meeting lasted an hour and 20 minutes.

Mr Harriman later addressed a packed news conference and said he had found Mr Andropov "cordial, blunt and frank", with an impressive grasp of affairs.

Mr Harriman's British-born wife, the former Mrs Randolph Churchill, sat beside him looking remarkably like Mrs Margaret Thatcher in a sky-blue dress and pearls. It must have given Mr Andropov quite a turn. Mrs Harriman said she found the Soviet leader vigorous, sunburnt and taller than she had expected, with a good sense of humour.

It was extraordinary to think the world was waiting on the word of a frail but spry man of 91 who had first come to Russia as a boy in 1899. But Mr Harriman is no ordinary American: he was Ambassador to Moscow during the Second World War, and has now met every Soviet leader since Stalin.

Since the Russians and Americans are not talking to each other nowadays, they have to use intermediaries, and Mr Harriman's mission to Moscow is part of an attempt by the Kremlin and the White House to talk across the barriers on confrontation.

Mr Harriman said he was not a "carrier of messages", but admitted he had met Mr George Shultz, the American Secretary of State, before leaving Washington.

At the meeting with Mr Andropov, attended only by Mrs Harriman, an Andropov aide and an interpreter, the Soviet leader had been "frank in expressing concern about the state of relations between us".

Mr Andropov then expressed "the sincere and fervent desire of the Soviet Union" to develop normal relations with America in the best traditions of the past.

Mr Harriman was asked if he could be more specific about what he thought constituted a normal relationship. With the long experience of diplomacy and the Soviet Union behind him, Mr Harriman said he had agreed with Mr Andropov that the thing to do was to start with solvable problems, not insoluble ones. Did the solvable questions include arms control? Mr Harriman would not be drawn.

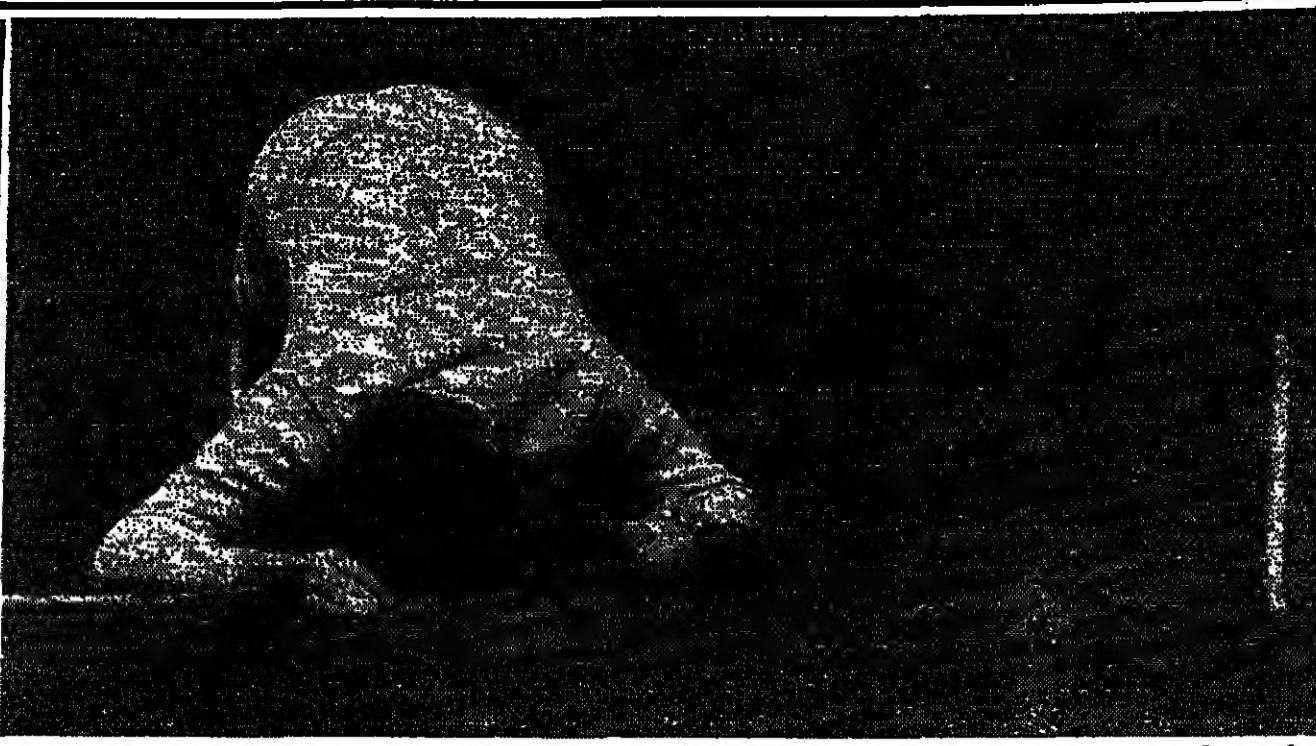
Mr Andropov has met no senior American official since he talked to Mr George Bush, the Vice-President, at the funeral of President Brezhnev in Moscow last November. Did Mr Harriman think this meant Soviet-American relations had sunk to their lowest level since the Cold War? He pondered this, looking down the avenue of the years to Stalin and beyond, and replied with a grin that it was "not clear to me when the Cold War started and when it ended".

Mr Harriman said he had been to Russia five times in the 1970s, and would come again if it helped to improve matters. Mrs Harriman said that was enough questions for now, but Mr Harriman, though a good 20 years older than most members of the geriatric Soviet Politburo, was happy to talk about the "good times" between Moscow and Washington in the past and his hopes that they might return.

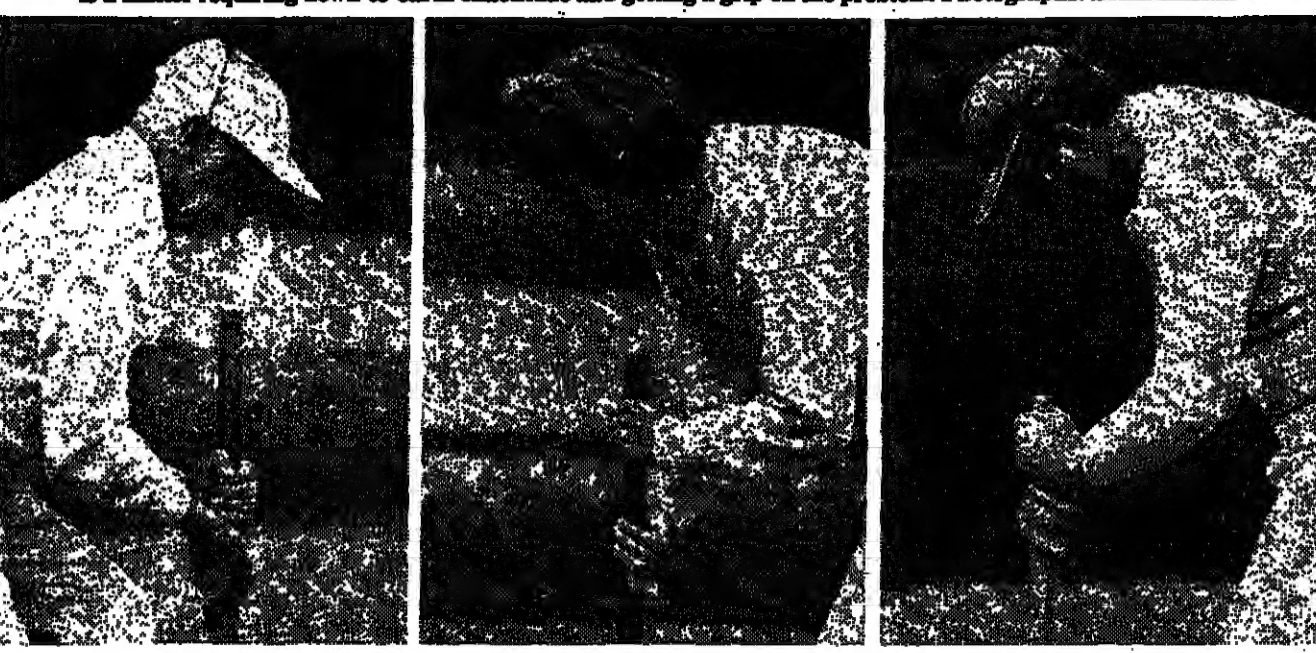
WASHINGTON: Dr Helmut Kohl, the West German Chancellor, is to explore in Moscow next month the possibility of a summit meeting between President Reagan and Mr Andropov, Nicholas Ashford writes.

According to West German sources, Dr Kohl raised the issue during private talks with Mr Reagan during the Williamsburg summit earlier this week.

Twin-track policy, page 6 Letters, page 15



The 'vicious' game - but to competitors in the Matras inter-county croquet championships at Southwick Park, Sussex, it is a matter requiring down-to-earth exactitude and getting a grip on the problem. Photographs: Brian Harris.



Healey condemned for Falklands outburst

Continued from page 1

Mr Michael Foot last night called for an inquiry into the sinking of the Belgrano but was careful to distance himself from Mr Healey's allegation that Mrs Thatcher was "glorifying in slaughter" (David Felton writes).

Mr Foot said that the Belgrano should be treated as an issue on its own, separate from the government's conduct during the war. Asked as he toured

Bristol yesterday whether he agreed with Mr Healey, Mr Foot said he could understand why feelings ran so high when 500 of the 6,000 merchant seamen who volunteered for Falklands duty were now on the docks.

The next government should hold negotiations over the sovereignty of the Falkland Islands, Dr David Owen, Alliance foreign affairs spokesman, said yesterday (Barrie Clement writes).

The Alliance would explore the possibility of a United Nations administration, he told a press conference in the constituency of Mrs Shirley

Williams at Crosby, near Liverpool.

He said Britain should start talks with Latin American countries together with the United States. The Organization of American States could provide a peace keeping force.

"The initiative would depend on a guarantee that the Argentinians would not seek to talk over the islands again," he said. Mrs Thatcher is mistaken in the view that the British forces went there to ensure the Union Jack would fly over the islands in perpetuity. They went there to resist armed aggression.

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Alliance gains six points

Continued from page 1

"Even I was astonished that the Alliance, which claims integrity and purity as personified by Mr Jenkins and Mr Steel individually should have gone in for this exercise today," he said.

"It is not concerned with statistical judgments. It is what is known in the advertising trade and the seed end of marketing as 'a hype', what you are doing is making extravagant claims about the position in the hope that some gullible fool will be deceived into believing them."

"That seems a deeply disreputable way of fighting an election."

Mr Hattersley said there was one poll, "pushed by Jenkins and Steel", which had a sample of little more than 500 people who were approached by telephone.

Yet Labour Party polls showed that among the big selection of the population which did not have a telephone the Labour Party had a lead of 14 per cent.

A poll which excludes contact with the telephone-less section of the community, a group of people whose social position inevitably makes them strongly Labour, is not likely to give an honest result," Mr Hattersley said.

If one looked at the record of this poll, on which the Alliance leaders were basing their claims, it had consistently given the Alliance a 3 or 4 per cent lead, and had consistently reduced the position of the Labour Party. Mr Hattersley said he was sure that the Alliance leaders would continue to make these false claims, but it was a disreputable way of campaigning.

To be fair, Mr David Steel, at the Alliance press conference earlier, had been less than enthusiastic about the poll taken for TV-AM by Audience Selection, which gathers opinion by telephone calls.

He was asked to comment on the validity of a poll taken on such a small sample. "All polls are suspect because they are all taken on small samples," Mr Steel said. "All they do, reliably, is to indicate a trend."

"I expected the trend to be upwards and the trend has turned up. It is going to continue going up."

"We represent the same sort of values that the Labour Party once stood for, and people are coming over to us for that reason."

Rembrandt offer fuels anger in art world

By Frances Gibb

Controversy over the threat to the British heritage posed by the huge wealth of American museums was fired yesterday with the disclosure of an offer for one of the country's most valued paintings, a Rembrandt portrait (below) estimated to be worth £3.5m.

The owner of the work, which is on loan to the National Museum of Wales, Cardiff, was approached about selling by Mr Marshall Spink, a London dealer, acting as an agent.

Last week Lord Normanton, chairman of the National Art Collections Fund, cited the case of a recent offer on behalf of an American museum of £2.5m for a painting valued at £3.5m in this country.

British museums, and heritage bodies, were powerless to stop the export of works in the face of such "Getty-enhanced offers," he said referring to the wealth of the J. Paul Getty museum, Malibu.

The Rembrandt painting, a life-size portrait signed and inscribed 1657, of Catharina Hooghsaat, a member of a Protestant sect, called the Mennonites, belongs to Lady Janet Douglas Penman, heiress of much of the Penrhyn estate. It is one of the most important paintings in the country.

Her husband Mr John Douglas Penman confirmed they had been approached about selling but said they had no intention of doing so.

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Today's events

The Duke of Edinburgh opens the Field Studies Centre of Deeside Naturalists Society, Connaught Quay, Cwyd, 9.30; as Patron, visits the headquarters of British Association for Shooting and Conservation, Rossett, Cwyd, 10.30. The Prince of Wales, Colonel-in-Chief, The Parachute Regiment, presents new Colours to the 10th (V).

Battalion The Parachute Regiment, Duke of York's Headquarters, London, 10.

Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother has luncheon at University College London, to mark its 150th anniversary, 12.30.

Princess Margaret visits the Cathedral at Bury St Edmunds, and the Theatre Royal 11.30.

The Duke of Gloucester, flies to Ottawa, to attend centenary celebrations of the 10th (V).

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The pound

	Bank	Bank
Australia \$	1.89	1.89
Canada \$	25.65	25.65
Denmark Kr	83.75	83.75
France Fr	2.62	2.62
Germany DM	1.50	1.50
Italy Lira	15.05	15.05
Japan Yen	9.15	9.15
Netherlands Gld	12.58	12.58
Sweden Kr	4.19	4.19
Switzerland Fr	135.00	135.00
USA \$	11.36	11.36
Yugoslavia Dnr	1.33	1.33

Bank of England, London, 12.30. The pound closed down 5.5 at 698.7.

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Roads

London and South-east Demonstration march from Brent town hall to Southall, via Wembley High Street, Bridge Road, Western Avenue, Uxbridge Road, Bridge Road, Southall, starting after morning rush hour. A3228: Roadworks at Redford Gardens, Kensington; delays for southbound traffic. A2: Lane closures on Boughen by-pass Kent.

Midlands and East Angles: M1: Lane closures at junction 19 (M6). Also at junction 16 (Northampton). A11: Temporary lights between Northorpe and Attleborough, Norfolk.

North: A49: Southbound lane closures on Forest Road, Torquay, Devon. M6: Lane closures between junctions 25 (A49 Wigan) and 27 (A5209, Wigan/Standish), Greater Manchester.

Wales and West: A5: Temporary lights at Upper Bangor, on Holyhead to Barmouth road, Gwynedd. Loyal Bath and West Show, Shepton Mallet: heavy traffic on A37, A361 and A371. Golf tournament, Chertsey, Surrey: heavy traffic on A48 and A466.

Scotland: A96: Lane closures, heavy traffic on A77 and A719. A72: Single lane traffic W of Forth road bridge.

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Weather forecast

Troughs of low pressure will cross England and Wales from SW.

6am to midnight

London, SE, Central S, NW, England, Midlands, N, Wales, SW, rain spreading from SW; wind SE to E, light or moderate; max temp 17 to 19C (63 to 66F).

East Angles, E, Central N, England: Sunny after clearance of early mist and fog patches, becoming cloudy with some rain later; wind variable, light or moderate; max temp 15 to 17C (59 to 63F).

Channel Islands, SW England, S Wales, Rain, some heavy, clearing later with showers; wind SE, moderate; max temp 16 to 18C (61 to 64F).

London, SE, Central S, NW, England, Midlands, N, Wales, SW, rain spreading from SW; wind SE to E, light or moderate; max temp 17 to 19C (63 to 66F).

East Angles, E, Central N, England: Sunny after clearance of early mist and fog patches, becoming cloudy with some rain later; wind variable, light or moderate; max temp 15 to 17C (59 to 63F).

Channel Islands, SW England, S Wales, Rain, some heavy, clearing later with showers; wind